



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

St Mary Magdalene's Church

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Monsignor Charles Hendry - Parish Priest

18th Sunday of Year B, 2nd August 2015

I am the Bread of Life

This Sunday we continue to read from the sixth chapter of John's Gospel, but not continuously. Our Lectionary omits John's report of Jesus' walking on water. This event is reported much less dramatically in John's Gospel than in the Synoptic Gospels. After the feeding of the multitudes, the disciples leave in a boat and Jesus follows them. The disciples are said to be terrified by what they see. Jesus reassures them and rejoins them. In today's Gospel, we learn that the crowd has noticed the departure of Jesus and his disciples and so seeks them out in Capernaum. In the dialogue that follows between Jesus and the crowds, Jesus unfolds for us the gift of himself that he gives in the Eucharist.

In today's Gospel, there are four exchanges between Jesus and the crowd. In the first, the crowd, having followed Jesus to Capernaum, asks a very matter of fact question: "Rabbi, when did you get here?" Jesus replies by naming their motivation in pursuing him. They have been fed. Jesus acknowledges this, yet challenges them to see beyond the fulfillment of their material needs. The crowds have followed Jesus be-



cause they have been fed. They ought to be seeking out Jesus because he can give them eternal life.

As the second dialogue begins, it seems that the crowd might be on their way to accepting Jesus and his mission. They ask: "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?" Jesus replies that they must have faith in the one sent from God. But in the third dialogue, the crowd reveals their inability to see Jesus' true identity. They ask Jesus for a sign so that they might know that Jesus is from God. How strange this sounds since Jesus has just fed more than 5000 people. What more is expected?

But the crowd cannot see beyond the surface of the sign. They show this in their interpretation of the sign that came from Moses. In their description, they identify Jesus with Moses, as if to say, as Moses gave the people manna in the desert, give us a sign so that we will know that you are from God. They are looking to identify a prophet without realising that God is standing before them. Jesus corrects their misinterpre-

tation, saying that the manna received by their ancestors came from God. As God fulfilled their ancestors' needs in the desert, so God has provided them with food for eternal life. In the bread that they have received from Jesus, they have received physical nourishment and also spiritual nourishment. Jesus wants the crowd to see beyond the surface to the One who provides true nourishment.

The conclusion of the dialogue reveals the crowd's blindness. They ask for what Jesus has just told them they have found: "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus answers plainly that he himself is the Bread of Life they seek. Jesus himself is the Bread of Life who will satisfy every hunger and thirst. This is the first of several such statements found in John's Gospel. We understand these better when we remember that God revealed his name to the people of Israel as "I am," as Yahweh. Jesus is now claiming this name for himself. In the weeks ahead, we will see the offense that this gives to the people.

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord gave them
bread from heaven.

Gospel Acclamation

I am the Way,
the Truth and the Life,
says the Lord;
no one can come to the Father
except through me.

AROUND PERTH

**Sunday Mass in
St Mary Magdalene's, Craigie**

10am
8am - Weekdays
(except Wednesday)

7am - Wednesday

**Sunday Mass in
Our Lady of Lourdes, Letham**

12 noon

**Sunday Mass in
St Mary's, Kinnoull**

10am

Sunday Mass in St John's
6.30pm (vigil); 9am; 11am & 6.30pm

PRAYERS

Please pray for
the repose of
the souls of
Agnes MacLean, Tina O'Brien
and Marie McLellan
and the souls
all the faithful departed.

**Eternal rest grant
unto their souls, O Lord.
May they rest in peace.
Amen.**

FEASTDAYS

**Tuesday 4th August
St John Vianney**

**Thursday 6th
The Transfiguration
of Our Lord**

**Saturday 8th
St Dominic**

Collection

Thank you for your generosity - last Sunday's collection amounted to £344.17.

Bishop's upkeep

There will be a special collection next Sunday for the Bishop's upkeep known as the Mensal Fund.

Youth Pilgrimage

There will be a National Pilgrimage for young Scottish Catholics to Nunraw Abbey on Sunday 13th September 2015. Pilgrims will set off from the pre-Reformation Shrine of Our Lady of Haddington and then walk 7 miles to the Benedictine Abbey of Sancta Maria where Mass will be celebrated.

The event is coordinated by the Catholic Youth Service of Scotland – and is open to all aged 11-25.

If you or a member of your family would like to attend please give names to Mgr Hendry as soon as possible.

Youth Weekend

A youth event is planned for 2nd-4th October, at Kilgraston School - with prayer, catechesis, a barbecue and overnight camping all part of the fun. Contact the Justyna Jablonska (01738 635074) if you are interested or give your name to Mgr Hendry today.

Family Mass

Bishop Stephen Robson will celebrate St John's Academy's Annual Family Mass on Tuesday 1st September, at 6.30pm, at the school - all families and friends are welcome.

'Invitation to meet'

Would you like to join us at The Royal George, Tay Street on Thursday 6th August at 2pm for afternoon tea and a chat?

Our aim is to bring people together who now find themselves on their own eg. the widowed, mature singles or anyone who would like some company.

We intend to go to the cinema or theatre (see below) next month, if you have any ideas for this let us know.

For further information please contact Jenny Dawson on 01738 562145 (or Deacon Len on 01738 451677)

Theatre Visit

Tickets are available for a performance of 'An Improbable Fiction' at Pitlochry Festival Theatre at 2pm on Wednesday 16th September costing £25 per ticket (concession/group booking).

If you would like to attend please give your name to Andrew Mitchell (628039) by Friday 7th August. Transport may be available/ or can be coordinated.

It is planned to stop afterwards at Bankfoot, 5pm, for afternoon tea.

Italian Pilgrims' Meeting

There will be a meeting for all who are taking part in the September Pilgrimage to Padua/ Venice in St John's church hall at 7pm on Thursday 20th August.

Dunkeld News

The latest edition of Bishop Stephen's newsletter is available now in the church porch - and also online at - www.dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Justice and Peace

"Thus the Lord unites us with himself through the eucharist – sacrament and sacrifice – and he unites us with himself and with one another by a bond stronger than any natural union; and thus united, he sends us into the whole world to bear witness through faith and works to God's love, preparing the coming of his kingdom and anticipating it."

Sollicitudo Rei Socialis, 48.4