



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

St Mary Magdalene's Church

7, Glenearn Road, Perth, PH2 0BD

Tel: 01738 643418

Monsignor Charles Hendry - Parish Priest

23rd Sunday of Year B, 6th September 2015

The Beauty of God's Commandments

Today we continue to hear the Gospel of Mark proclaimed. In today's reading, Jesus heals a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment. This is a story about Jesus' healing power, and in it we find clues about our understanding of sacrament. We are struck by the physical means used to heal the man, the use of spittle and touch. The Church continues to celebrate the sacraments using physical means. In the Sacrament of Baptism, water and oil are used to show the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, we are anointed with holy oil on the forehead and the hands. In the Eucharist, bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. We are a sacramental people who believe that God's grace is given to us through these physical signs.

Some, however, see in this Gospel an image of the proclamation of the good news of Jesus to the Gentiles. The geographic references tell us that Jesus is journeying through Gentile territory. Jesus had previously visited this region and healed a person possessed by a demon. Jesus was already famous there, which explains why people brought

the deaf man to him. The story that precedes this reading in Mark's Gospel sets the stage. Jesus encounters a Gentile, a Syrophenician woman who asks him to heal her demon-possessed daughter. Jesus engages her in a dialogue about not feeding to dogs the food intended for children. Jesus is struck by the woman's great faith when she replies that even dogs eat the food that falls from the table, and he heals her daughter immediately. The faith of this Greek woman compels Jesus to respond to her plea.

Mark shows that Jesus' own mission affirms the early Church's mission to the Gentiles. This was a significant issue to the early Christian community, which found that the good news of Jesus took root and spread quickly among the Gentiles. Yet there is an irony in the story of healing that Mark tells. Jesus gives the man the gift of speech, but then tells him not to use it. Jesus asks that the news of his healing power, which is evidence of his identity as the Messiah, not be spread. This is a recurring motif in Mark's Gospel and is sometimes called the "messianic secret."



For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

My soul,
give praise to the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Speak, Lord,
your servant is listening:
you have the message
of eternal life.

Pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi and Sorrento

Holy Year of Mercy, Diocese of Dunkeld - 2016 Pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi and Sorrento - 11 nights/10 days on 8-18 September, 2016. Cost around £910 (B & B) or £1060 (Half Board).

Further information and Booking Form through Bishop Stephen's Secretary: bishops-secretary@dunkelldiocese.org.uk or Bishop Stephen Robson, Diocesan Office, 24-28 Lawside Road, Dundee DD3 6XY or Anne Marie Cairns, Alba Tours, 40 Chestnut Grove, Motherwell ML1 3JF.

AROUND PERTH

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

10am

No Weekday Masses
(7-24th September)

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

12noon

(5.30pm Vigil; Sunday 11am from 28/29 Sept)

**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
Moya Dew,
Mgr Michael Regan and
David McDonald
and the souls
all the faithful departed.

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

FEASTDAYS THIS WEEK

**Tuesday 8th
Birthday of Our Lady**

**Wednesday 9th
St Peter Claver)**

**Saturday 12th
Most Holy Name of Mary**

Collection

Thank you for your generosity - last Sunday's collection amounted to £256.52.

Priest contact

Mgr Hendry will be on holiday from 7-24th September. In an emergency please contact Canon Drysdale (01764 653269).

Welcome

We welcome Fr McAinch at this Sunday's Mass because Mgr Hendry will be saying Mass for Canon Drysdale in Crieff on that day.



Romanian Music Night

A beautiful night of music will be held at Our Lady's Church on Friday September 4th to raise money for The Marie Curie Children's hospital in Bucharest, Romania.

The night will be filled with performances from talented musicians, there will be refreshments such as teas, coffees and cake sold, and a raffle with great prizes will be run!

Tickets are £3.50 and include a hot drink. The night starts at 6.30pm so come along, enjoy the music and support the children at the hospital!

Tickets can be purchased at the door or reservations can be made through email at romaniafundraisinggroup@gmail.com

Brownie Birthday

2016 is the 75th Birthday of 19th Perth (St John's) Brownies and the 25th Birthday of the Rainbows. To kick off our celebrations a BBQ will be held at Quarrymill on Friday 11th September from 6.30 pm. Tickets £5 for adults and £3 for children from Miss Monaghan in St John's Primary or Mrs Watson on Thursday 6.15 pm to 7.30 pm in St John's Hall.

Invitation to Meet

For the widowed (M&F), mature singles and anyone who would like some company.

Thursday 10th Sept - Lunch 12.30pm at Kisa's (Opposite back door of M&S) Those interested let Jenny know for numbers.

Wednesday 16th Sept - Improbable Fiction 2pm at Pitlochry Festival Theatre (for those who have booked)

Thursday 8th Oct - The Importance of being Earnest (7.15pm). A satellite production from The National Theatre showing in Perth Playhouse. Concession £10 adult £12.50

For further information or to book for The Importance of Being Earnest - book early as these productions are very popular - contact Jenny Dawson 01738 562145

Italian Association

The September meeting of the Italian Association will be later than usual - it will be held on Saturday 3rd October, at 1pm in the Church Hall.

Italian classes

Please note that weekly Italian classes resumes on Saturday 10th October.

Justice and Peace

'The Church directs her attention to these new 'poor' – the handicapped and the maladjusted, the old, different groups of those on the fringe of society, and so on – in order to recognize them, help them, defend their place and dignity in a society hardened by competition and the attraction of success.'

Octagesimo Adveniens, 15.2