



*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

26th Sunday of Year B, 27th September 2015

In the name of Jesus

Today we continue to read from the Gospel of Mark. Recall that last week we heard Jesus chastise his disciples for their argument about who among them was the greatest. Jesus taught them that the greatest among them will be those who serve the least ones. In today's Gospel, the disciple John questions Jesus about an unknown exorcist who was driving out demons in Jesus' name. John's question might have been motivated by jealousy. Previously in Mark's Gospel, Jesus healed a boy whom the disciples had been unable to heal. John's question is further evidence that the disciples have not yet grasped Jesus' words to them. They continue to compare themselves to others who seem to have greater healing powers, and they do not want to share the power of Jesus' name with others.

Today the demon possession described in the Gospels might be seen as a form of mental illness, but the need for healing these syndromes was as real then as it is now. Exorcism was a common practice in first-century Palestine. Some people had the power to heal the symptoms of possession. One of the

strategies used was to invoke the name of a person or figure who was believed to have the power to heal.

The disciples observed that the unknown exorcist invoked Jesus' name and was successful in his healing efforts. This unknown healer recognised the power of Jesus' name, yet he was not a follower of Jesus. In his reply to his disciples, Jesus acknowledges that deeds of faith can precede the words of faith. He also teaches that the disciples should not be reluctant to share Jesus' healing powers with others.

Later in this Gospel, Jesus teaches us not to create obstacles for those who are just beginning to have faith but to encourage even the smallest signs of faith. The Greek word used here for sin also connotes "stumbling" or "causing scandal." In vivid terms Jesus teaches his disciples the consequences to those who would put obstacles before people who are on the road to faith.



For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

The precepts of the Lord
gladden the heart.

Gospel Acclamation

Your word is truth, O Lord,
consecrate us in the truth..

Diocesan Vocations Mass

St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee

1pm, Saturday 3rd October

**with the
Ordination of Rev. Ron Wylie
to the Permanent Diaconate**

AROUND PERTH

**Sunday Mass in
St Mary Magdalene's, Craigie**
10am
No Weekday Masses

**Sunday Mass in
Our Lady of Lourdes, Letham**
5.30pm (vigil);
11am

**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 soul of Sarah Gallagher
and the souls
all the faithful departed.

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

Second collection

There will be a second collection at all Masses next Sunday for the Ecclesiastical Student Fund.

Methven Castle Concert

Concert next Sunday, 4th October at 2pm, at Methven Castle, in aid of Perth and Kinross Music Foundation and the Youth Musicians Parents Association who support children with their tuition fees/ music camp and instrument purchases.

The concert is at the invitation of David Murdoch and Alex Cairncross, minimum donation is £12.50 per person.

Music is being provided by Shetland Fiddler Maggie Adamson together with singers Liam Bonthron and Kenneth McIver – all of whom are award winners and recording artists. To reserve a ticket – please call Maureen Rutherford 07774 807511 or David Murdoch on 07767164095.

Diocesan Youth Gathering Kilgraston School Bridge of Earn

3rd - 4th October

**Starts Saturday at 2.30pm -
Depart 2pm after Mass and lunch on Sunday**
youth-office@dunkelddioocese.org.uk

Bingo Tea

There will be a Bingo Tea in St John's Church Hall in aid of St Bride's Pitlochry's Nigeria Project - on Monday 26th October at 7pm. Tickets £1


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 class recommence the following week - Saturday 10th October, 4.15pm in St John's Church Hall.

Justice and Peace

'The gap between most of the richest countries and the poorest ones is not diminishing or being stabilised, but is increasing more and more to the detriment, obviously, of the poor countries.'

Laborem Exercens, 17.2



We are looking for people with and without learning disabilities to help us grow L'Arche in Scotland.

Would you like to be involved?

It takes a diverse group to start a Community – people with learning disabilities and their families, people who have worked in a L'Arche Community, support from local churches, volunteers, people able to give professional advice in social work, support provision, finance, housing and fundraising. Could you be one of those people?

If you would like to know more or offer your support please contact Anthony Kramers on 07979 810870 or visit our website www.larche.org.uk

Open Meeting : Could L'Arche grow in Perth ?

All welcome on Sunday 18 October 3 – 4.30 pm at Kinnoull Church hall,
Dundee Road, Perth PH2 7EY