

*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

28th Sunday of Year B, 11th October 2015

An Invitation to the Community of Faith

Today we continue reading the Gospel of Mark from where we left off last Sunday. Last Sunday our Gospel told how Jesus was tested by the Pharisees about the requirements for divorce. Recall that these chapters come from the second part of Mark's Gospel, which chronicles the beginning of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem.

In today's Gospel, an unnamed man approaches Jesus and inquires about what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus replies that one must follow the commandments of the Law of Moses. The man acknowledges that he has observed all of these since his childhood. Jesus then says that only one thing is lacking: he must give his possessions to the poor and follow Jesus. The man leaves in sadness, and Mark tells us that this is because he had many possessions.

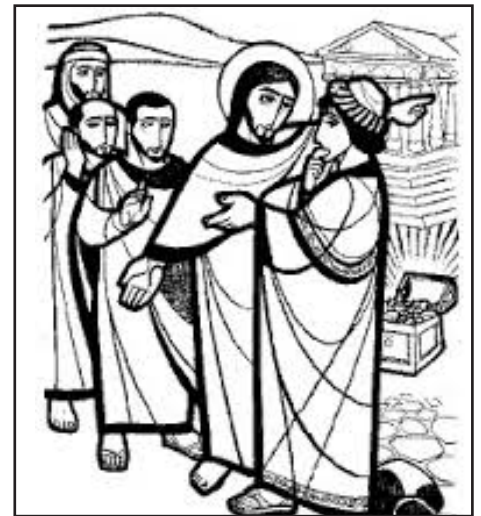
The belief in resurrection and eternal life was a relatively recent development in Jewish thought at Jesus' time, and it wasn't shared by everyone. The Pharisees taught that there would be a resurrection from the dead; the Sadducees did not share this belief. Jesus taught that there would be a final judgment for everyone and eternal life (the

Kingdom of God) for believers.

Jesus makes two requirements of the wealthy man who approaches him. First, he must give up his possessions. Throughout history, some Christians have taken this literally. Their example witnesses to us a radical commitment to the Gospel of Jesus. Some have read this as a particular requirement directed to this specific individual. Still others have sought to explain the meaning intended by the word possessions as those things that prevent one from following Jesus. Christians have generally understood that at the least, following Jesus requires that believers hold material possessions loosely and remain vigilant against seeking security in accumulating possessions.

The second requirement Jesus makes of this man is the invitation that Jesus extends to all would-be disciples: "follow me." Jesus very much wants this man to be his disciple. We believe that the Christian faith is one in which each believer is in a personal relationship with Jesus. Just as this Gospel tells us that Jesus loves the man and is sad when he departs, so too, Jesus loves us and is saddened when we are unable to follow him.

We see in this Gospel reading another example of Mark's pattern, which shows Jesus offering further elaboration about his message and meaning to his disciples. To his disciples, Jesus laments the challenges faced by those who are rich in following him and entering the Kingdom of God. In reply to the disciples' astonishment at the strictness of the standard that Jesus speaks about today, Jesus reminds his disciples that nothing is impossible with God. Salvation is determined by our ability to rely completely upon God.



Peter replies to Jesus by boasting that the disciples have already given up everything. Jesus acknowledges that those who have given up everything for the sake of the Gospel will be rewarded. This reward begins now, in the new community that one will gain in this life, and will continue in the eternal age to come. Our personal relationship with Jesus is also an invitation to the community of faith, the Church.

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

May the Lord bless us
all the days of our life.

Gospel Acclamation

Blessed are you, Father,
Lord of heaven and earth,
for revealing the mysteries
of the kingdom
to mere children.

Opportunities for Education

Recently the Pope prayed that opportunities for education and employment may increase for all young people.

If you can help the young people of St John's Academy with work experience or placements, or can help the school in any other way with preparing young people for the world of work then get in touch either by email to st-johnsacademy@pkc.gov.UK, tweet to [@gruffthree](https://twitter.com/gruffthree) or phone 01738 454300 and ask for Pauline Ward.

Second collection next week for Mission Sunday

AROUND PERTH

Sunday Mass in St Mary Magdalene's, Craigie

10am - Sunday
8am - Weekdays
(except Wednesday)
7am - Wednesday

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 souls of Maria Zucconi, Thomas
Lockhart and Alex Brown
and the souls
all the faithful departed.

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

Collections

Thank you for your generosity - last Sunday's collection amounted to £302.45. Ecclesiastical Student Fund £108.30

Next Sunday is Mission Sunday - there will be a second collection for the missions.

November lists

November envelopes are available at the back of the church. Masses will be celebrated throughout November for those whose names appear on your lists. Please hand them in to Mgr Hendry as soon as possible. Many thanks.

Eucharistic Ministers

A Day of Formation and Celebration for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion is to be held on Saturday, 31st October from 10.30am-3pm. in St John's High School, Dundee. Packed lunches to be taken.

Feastdays

Tuesday 13th October
St Teresa of Avila

Saturday 17th October
St Ignatius of Antioch

Italian Association

Members and friends are reminded about the Rosary in Italian, at 2pm on Sundays, and also about going to the Messa per i Mortu celebrated by Archbishop Tartaglia in St Andrew's Cathedral in Glasgow on Monday 2nd November. Our busleaves St John's at 4pm - with High Tea en route.


We will be attending White Christmas in Pitlochry on Thursday 3rd December - price (including High Tea) £30.50.

Christmas Dinner Dance at McDiarmid Park - Monday 14th December - cost £28.

Justice and Peace

'Thus the exclusive pursuit of material possessions prevent man's growth as a human being and stands in opposition to his true grandeur. Avarice, in individuals and in nations, is the most obvious form of stultified moral development.'

Populorum Progressio, 19



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**