

*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

## 1st Sunday of Advent Year C, 29th November 2015

# Prepare the Way for the Lord

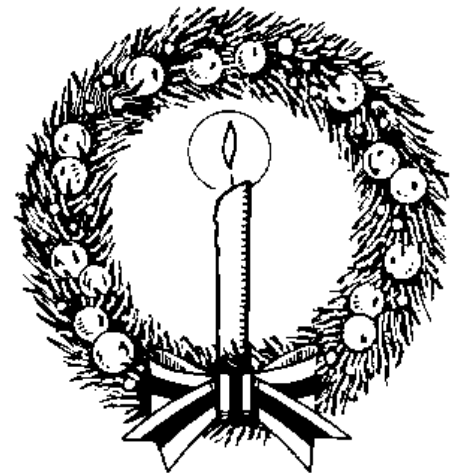
Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of the new liturgical year. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle C). Today's Gospel is taken from the last chapter before the passion narrative in which Jesus is teaching in the Temple. We hear Jesus speak to his disciples about the need for vigilance and prayer as they wait for the coming of the Son of Man in glory. This passage marks the conclusion of a lengthy dialogue in which Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, warns about the persecution and tribulations to follow, and identifies the signs that will signal the coming of the Son of Man in glory.

The community for whom Luke wrote his Gospel may have believed that they were already experiencing some of the events Jesus described. Most scholars believe that Luke's Gospel was written after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70AD. At the time, many Christians interpreted this event as an indication that Jesus' second coming was near.

Though Jesus predicts a time of destruction and fear, Jesus indicates that others will be frightened; Jesus' disciples are not to fear, but are to stand tall. Yet Jesus does not promise deliverance from anxiety or tribulations. He encourages his disciples to pray for strength. The early Christian communities did not find consolation in the promise of a utopia, nor should we. Instead, we find in our Christian faith the means by which we witness to God's unfailing love for us in all circumstances.

Jesus' predictions about the end times may sound dire, but in the next paragraph Luke tells us that people woke early to listen to Jesus' teaching in the Temple area. In his person and in his



## 1st Sunday in Advent

message, those who heard Jesus found strength and consolation. Like the first Christians, we may encounter events and circumstances that could lead us to despair. Through prayer, however, we find strength and consolation in Jesus' words and in his continuing presence with us to endure all things and to witness to the action of God in our world.

## For today's Mass

### Responsorial Psalm

To you, O Lord,  
I lift up my soul.

### Gospel Acclamation

Let us see, O Lord,  
your mercy  
and show us your saving help.

## Holy Year Door to Open

On Tuesday 8th December, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, at 7pm, Bishop Stephen will open the Holy Door at St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee to mark the start of the Holy Year of Mercy.

If you would attend please add your name to the list at the back of the church. Also, please indicate if you are willing to offer transport. Special Devotions will also take place in St John the Baptist's - one of the five designated churches during the Holy Year.

## 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 members  
of the Giulianotti family  
and the souls all  
the faithful departed.

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

## Torchlight Procession

Come along and join in the Perth  
Action for Churches Together's Torch-  
light Procession through the city centre  
on Saturday 5th December - then enjoy  
mulled wine and mince pies outside St  
John's Kirk with Carol Singing and the  
switch-on of the Perth Nativity scene.

## FEASTDAYS

**Monday 30th November**  
St Andrew, Apostle

**Thursday 3rd December**  
St Francis Xavier, Priest

**Friday 4th December**  
St John Damascene, Priest,  
Doctor of the Church

## School raises funds for Romania Project

St John's Academy pupils are host-  
ing a "Night of Music" fundraiser  
evening for the Budimex Marie Curie  
Children's Hospital and the Recuperare  
Centre.

The event takes place at Our Lady of  
Lourdes Church, in Letham, on Thurs-  
day 17th December at 7pm, to raise  
money to build a new playground for  
the hospital.

The evening will have lots of dif-  
ferent musical acts, a raffle, a short  
presentation discussing the project and  
their time in Romania and plenty of hot  
drinks and cakes throughout!

Tickets are £3.50 for adults and £2  
for children, and will be on sale at the  
end of Mass next week.

They can also be purchased at St  
John's Academy's school office and  
will be available for purchase on the  
night as well.

## Youth group

New members are always welcome -  
why not come along on one of the fol-  
lowing events to learn more about who  
we are and what we do?

On Sunday 6th December - after the  
9am and 11am Masses - there will be a  
sale of Craft work and Baking in aid of  
youth group funds. Contributions and  
donations welcome.

On Sunday 13th December the group  
plan to go Ice Skating in Edinburgh,  
leaving just after 9am Mass. Cost - in-  
cluding transport £10. If you would  
like to join us on that day please speak  
to Justyna after Mass.

On Sunday 20th Decemer we will  
join the diocesan Advent Youth Gather-  
ing in Our Lady of Sorrow RC Church,  
Fintry in Dundee - leaving St John's at  
9.50am. (Cost free).

Last week 7 members of the youth  
project met with Bishop Stephen - the  
first of a series of gatherings in prepa-  
ration for going to the World Youth  
Day in Poland in July 2016.

## Collections

Thank you for your generosity - last  
Sunday's poor mission collection amount-  
ed to £115.20.

## Italian Association

Members and friends will be attending  
White Christmas in Pitlochry on Thurs-  
day 3rd December - price (including High  
Tea) £30.50. Christmas Dinner Dance at  
McDiarmid Park - Monday 14th Decem-  
ber - cost £28.

## Honoured guest

Mgr Hendry has been invited to Scots  
College, Rome, on the Feast of St An-  
drew, to mark the 60th anniversary of  
his ordination.

There will be no weekday Mass in St  
Mary Magdalene's from Thursday 25th  
November until Thursday 3rd Decem-  
ber.

We welcome Canon Drysdale, newly  
appointed parish priest at St John's,  
who will celebrate Mass for us today.

## St Mary's Lochee Charity Concert

The Scottish opera Tenor, Martin  
Aelred will give a concert in the Im-  
maculate Conception Church, Lochee,  
Dundee at 7pm, on Friday 4th Decem-  
ber in aid of 'Let the Children Live'  
- a charity that responds to the needs  
of children from the streets and shanty-  
towns of Colombia's cities, and in par-  
ticular the city of Medellin.

Martin Aelred performs on interna-  
tional platforms and has just returned  
to Scotland from a concert tour in the  
Holy Land's West Bank and in Beth-  
lehem.

Mgr Aldo Angelosanto and his pa-  
rishioners promise a warm welcome to  
all who would like to support this wor-  
thy cause.

Admission is by donation - and if you  
would like to be sure of a seat please  
contact Donna McLaughlan, telephone  
- 07958 678996.

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 Mgr Hendry after Mass