

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

## 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C, 24th January 2016

# Jubilee Years - a framework for God's salvation

Today's Gospel reading combines two separate passages taken from the Gospel of Luke. First we hear the opening verses where Luke establishes the purpose of his Gospel. His style is typical of polished Greek and Roman literature. In this passage, we learn that Luke may have written to a specific person, Theophilus; but the word Theophilus may also be a general reference, functioning as the phrase "Dear Reader" might in contemporary writing. In Greek, the word Theophilus translates as "lover of God."

Today's Gospel reading then skips several chapters in which one would find the Infancy Narratives, Jesus' baptism by John, the temptations Jesus faced in the desert, and the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. In chapter four of Luke's Gospel, we hear that Jesus is in his hometown of Nazareth, attending the synagogue on the Sabbath, which is said to be his custom. In this account, we find another important clue that Jesus lived as a faithful, observant Jew. We will continue to read from Luke's Gospel in sequence for the next two Sundays.

As Jesus stands in the synagogue,

## For today's Mass

### Responsorial Psalm

Your words are spirit, Lord,  
and they are life.

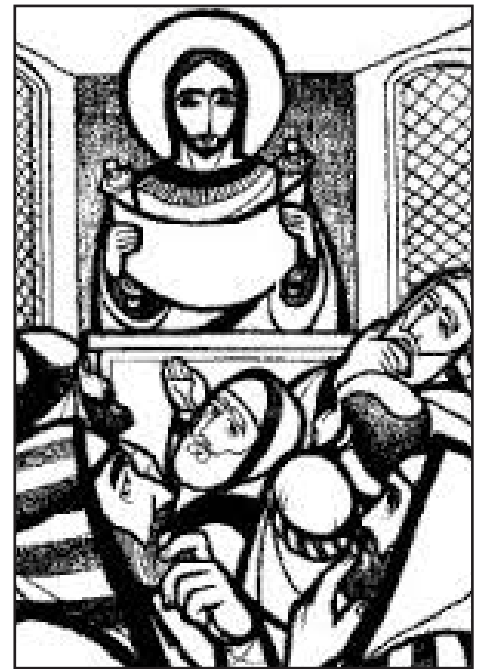
### Gospel Acclamation

The Lord has sent me  
to bring good news  
to the poor,  
to proclaim liberty  
to captives.

he reads from the scroll handed to him; it contains the words of the prophet Isaiah. At this early moment in his ministry, Jesus announces his mission in continuity with Israel's prophetic tradition. This reading from Isaiah defines Jesus' ministry. We will find more evidence of this as we continue to read from Luke's Gospel throughout the year. Jesus' ministry will include bringing glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives, healing to the sick, freedom to the oppressed, and proclaiming a year acceptable to the Lord.

Through this text from Isaiah, Jesus announces God's salvation. The "year acceptable to the Lord" is a reference to the Jewish tradition of Sabbath years and jubilee. The Sabbath year was observed every seventh year. It was a year of rest when land was left fallow and food stores were to be shared equally with all. A year of Jubilee was celebrated every fiftieth year, the conclusion of seven cycles of Sabbath years. It was a year of renewal in which debts were forgiven and slaves were freed.

This tradition of Jubilee is the framework for God's promise of salvation. And yet in Jesus, something new begins. Jesus not only announces God's salvation, he brings this salvation about in his person. Jesus is Yahweh's Anointed One, filled with the



Spirit of God. The Kingdom of God is now at hand. It is made present in Jesus, in his life, death, and Resurrection. Jesus will send the Holy Spirit so that the Kingdom of God can be fulfilled.

The Holy Spirit is Jesus' gift to the Church. The Holy Spirit enables the Church to continue the mission of Jesus. When we do what Jesus did—bring glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives, healing to the sick, and freedom to the oppressed—we serve the Kingdom of God.

## STATION MASSES DURING THE HOLY YEAR OF MERCY

*Wednesday 17th February  
7pm, in St John the Baptist's, Perth*



## 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  
Bishop Ian Murray  
Isabella and Bert Young  
and all the faithful departed.

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

## FEASTDAYS

**Monday, 25th January**  
Conversion of St Paul

**Tuesday, 26th**  
Ss Timothy and Titus, Bishops

**Thursday 28th**  
St Thomas Aquinas

## Burns Supper

St John's Academy are holding a Burns Supper in St John's Church Hall, 7.30pm Friday 29th January Tickets £8 adults £5 children in aid of Romania playground fund. Tickets available after Mass.

## Collection

Thank you for your generosity - last Sunday's collection amounted to £236.30. Thank you also for your generosity towards the work of Justice and Peace - £79.70 was raised.

## World day of prayer for the Sick

In the year of the Jubilee of Mercy Mass will be celebrated at 7pm, on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Thursday, 11th February in the church of the Immaculate Conception, St Mary's Lane, Lochee, Dundee.

A bus will leave St John's Church at 6pm - please give your name to Norma (622661) to book a seat.

## Helping in Lourdes

The Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Association are looking for helpers in order that the sick pilgrims can go on this year's Lourdes Pilgrimage 8-15 July. They require a Doctor to lead the medical team of eight nurses.

We are also in need of nurses. Can anyone in the Parish help in this appeal. Further enquiries to Mrs. C. Van der Boon Tel. No. 01382 815292.

## Carnevale Ball

The annual Carnevale for Shrove Tuesday will be celebrated in 9th February, with a Masked Ball and Meal in the Church Hall, at 7pm for 7.30pm.

Masks required and fancy dress optional. Call 622661 to book (for catering purposes). Tickets £10.

## Italian Classes

Italian classes in hall every Saturday from 4.15-6.15pm except for the last Saturday of the month. Open to all - beginners and fluent speakers.

## Italian Association meeting

The next meeting of the Italian Association will be on Saturday 30th January at 1pm followed by Mass in Italian in St John's at 2pm



## Union of Catholic Mothers

Tuesday 2nd February, Mass begins at 7pm followed by a Mini Bingo in aid of UCM funds. All family and friends and Parishioners welcome. Eyes down 7.30pm.

## Designated Churches in the Holy Year

Pope Francis has declared this year, 2016, the Year of Mercy. It began with the feast of the Immaculate Conception in December, 2015, and will end on the Feast of Christ the King in November, 2016. His special letter announcing the year is entitled "Misericordiae Vultus" which reminds us that the face of Christ reveals to us God the Merciful Father. Mercy lies at the heart of Sacred Scripture, both in the Old Testament and the New. Confession is the great Sacrament of Mercy and much emphasis is being laid upon its reception during this year.

Every month there will be an opportunity to celebrate the Holy Year with various groups in our diocese, which will be in tandem with the celebrations in Rome presided over by the Holy Father. Our holy door is in the Cathedral, Dundee, and will remain open all year. As we pass through it we will be able to pray the devotions and prayers reminding us of our pilgrimage through life. There are also a number of designated churches which link us to the Cathedral in Dundee and to the holy door in Rome. Locally, these churches are the Church the Holy Family, Dunblane, St John's, Perth, and St Mungo's, Alloa. We are encouraged to recite the prayers of the Holy Year in these churches and thus gain the plenary indulgence promulgated by the Holy Father.

More information later as the year progresses.

**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