



*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

2nd Sunday of Lent, Year C, 21st February 2016

TRANSFIGURATION

On the second Sunday of Lent, we move from Jesus' retreat to the desert and temptation by the devil to the glory shown in Jesus' Transfiguration. On the first Sunday of Lent, our Gospel always tells the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. On the second Sunday, we always hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration.

The report of Jesus' Transfiguration is found in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The context for Luke's Transfiguration story is similar to that found in both Matthew and Mark. The Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' prediction about his Passion. After the prediction there is a discussion of the cost of discipleship in each of these Gospels. The placement of the Transfiguration story close to Peter's confession and Jesus' prediction encourages us to examine the Transfiguration in the larger context of the Paschal Mystery.

The Transfiguration occurs on a mountain in the presence of just three of Jesus' disciples—Peter, James and John. These are among the first disciples that Jesus called in Luke's



Gospel. We recently heard this Gospel at Mass, on the fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Only Luke's Gospel, which often describes Jesus at prayer, indicates that Jesus is praying as his appearance changes to bright white. Luke indicates that the three disciples were sleeping while Jesus prayed. They will be sleeping again as Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane before his Passion and death.

As they awake, Peter and the disciples see Jesus Transfigured and Elijah and Moses present with Jesus. Elijah and Moses, both significant figures in the history of Israel, represent Jesus' continuity with the Law and the Prophets. In Matthew's and Mark's Gospels, there is reference to conversation among Jesus, Elijah, and Moses, but only Luke's Gospel explains that this conversation is about Jesus' later accomplishments in Jerusalem. Luke describes this as his exodus, connecting Jesus' Passion, death, and Resurrection with the Israel's Exodus from Egypt.

On witnessing Jesus' Transfigura-

tion and seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses, Peter offers to construct three tents for them. Having just awoken, perhaps Peter's offer was made in confusion. We also notice that Peter reverted from his earlier confession that Jesus is the Messiah, calling Jesus "master" instead. As if in reply to Peter's confusion, a voice from heaven speaks, affirming Jesus as God's Son and commanding that the disciples listen to him. This voice from heaven recalls the voice that was heard at Jesus' baptism which, in Luke's Gospel, spoke directly to Jesus as God's Son.

In his Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection. In each of the reports of the Transfiguration, the disciples keep secret what they have seen. Not until they also witness his Passion and death will the disciples understand Jesus' Transfiguration. We hear this story of Jesus' Transfiguration early in Lent, but we have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of it, we anticipate Jesus' Resurrection even as we prepare to remember Jesus' Passion and death.

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

I will walk in the presence
of the Lord in the land of the living.

Gospel Acclamation

From the bright cloud
the Father's voice was heard:
'This is my Son,
the Beloved. Listen to him.'

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 Vincent Evans, Joan
Toolan and John (Jimmy) Brown
and all the faithful departed.

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Sundays at 3pm
in St Mary Magdalene's
during Lent

FEAST DAYS

Monday 22nd February
Chair of Peter, the Apostle

23rd February
St Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr

Collection

Thank you for your generosity -
last Sunday's collection amounted to
£358.60.

Special collection

A special collection will be taken this
week in aid of the Sick and Retired
Priests' Fund.

SCIAF Boxes

SCIAF boxes are available in the
Church porch for your Lenten Almsgiving
- please return them at Mass on
Holy Thursday.

A Candle Light Rosary Service

with music from Taize

Encouraging our prayerful
Lenten spiritual journey

7pm Wednesday
2nd March

St John's, Melville Street

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.

Work experience

Do you have a business or work for
an employer who could give a pupil ex-
perience of the workplace?

St John's RC Academy is looking for
opportunities for their senior pupils. If
you think you can help please contact
the school on 01738 454300 or email
pward@pkc.gov.uk.

Italian Association

The next monthly meeting of the
Italian Association will be on Saturday
27th February at 1pm - followed by
Mass in Italian at 2pm.

During Lent - Stations of the Cross
will be followed, in Italian, at 2pm on
Saturdays.

Rainbow Guides

There are a few spaces available in
the 19th Perth (St John's) Rainbows
which meet in St John's Church Hall
on Fridays from 5.30-6.30pm.

The unit will be celebrating its Sil-
ver Jubilee later this year and if your
daughter is aged 5 or 6 and would like
to join in the fun and friendship which
has made this a popular section of the
Girl Guides for so many years - please
contact Anne Mitchell 01738 628039.

UCM - Godspell 1987

Next meeting will be Tuesday 1st
March, where we are showing a film
of Godspell, performed by our own Pa-
rishioners in 1987. All welcome - come
along to see if you recognise yourself,
your Mum, Dad or Granny. 7.30pm in
the Church hall.

During Lent
our Saturday
Weekday
Mass
will be
celebrated
at 10am

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