

*Drawing by John R Hume,  
courtesy of Scotland's Churches Trust*

# St Mary Magdalene's Church

7, Glenearn Road, Perth, PH2 0BD

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Monsignor Charles Hendry - Parish Priest

## 4th Sunday of Easter, 17th April 2016 The caring shepherd

The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel is taken from the tenth chapter of the Gospel of John. This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge to his authority by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders. Already, the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angered that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus (see John 10:31 and 10:39). This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death.

Set in a moment of tension and conflict in John's Gospel, today's Gospel reading is Jesus' answer to the question, "Are you the Messiah?" Jesus responds by saying, in essence, "If you have to ask, then you are not one of my sheep." Then Jesus asserts his unity with the Father. At the conclusion of these words, John reports that the Jews intend to stone Jesus for blasphemy, but he escapes arrest.



We may be less familiar with the metaphors of sheep and shepherd than those to whom Jesus spoke. The image of Jesus

as Good Shepherd and the community of followers as his sheep has endured over the centuries as a primary image in our faith tradition. Its power to describe the relationship between Jesus and his followers transcends direct experience with sheep. The image speaks to us about the protection, security, and care that shepherds represent for their sheep.

Today's Gospel speaks powerfully about the familiarity and intimacy between Jesus and his disciples, expressed

as recognizing and knowing another's voice. Today's Gospel also speaks of the relationship between Jesus and the Father. In the Gospel of John, Jesus identifies so closely with the Father that he tells us that they are one—not just close, but actually one. To know Jesus is to know the Father. Jesus doesn't just bring us closer to the Father, Jesus puts us directly into contact with God the Father, removing all distance between us. Our relationship with Jesus is an invitation to share in the life of God.

### For today's Mass

#### Responsorial Psalm

We are his people,  
the sheep of his flock.

#### Gospel Acclamation

I am the Good Shepherd,  
says the Lord;  
I know my own sheep  
and my own know me.

### Today is a special day of prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood

Visit the new Dunkeld Diocesan Vocations website  
for the latest updates - [www.dunkeldvocations.co.uk](http://www.dunkeldvocations.co.uk)

## 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 Anna Gallagher (Derry), Theresa Gourlay, Wattie Colquhoun and the Whitehead family and all the faithful departed whose anniversaries occur at this time.

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



## Union of Catholic Mothers

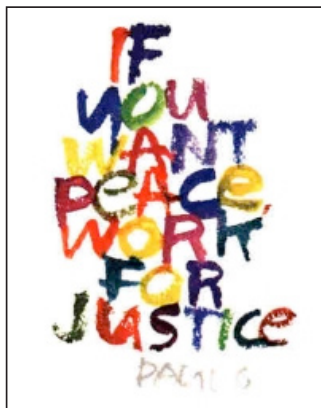
Tuesday 19th, Mass begins at 7pm followed by an evening with Len Moir. All Welcome.

## Collection

Thank you for your generosity - last Sunday's collection amounted to £277.65

## Mission Appeal

Thank you for your generosity in last week's Mission Appeal - £221 was collected for the work of the Columban Missionary Sisters.



*"Yet another sign of love will be the effort to transmit to Christians, . . . certainties that are solid because they are anchored in the word of God. The faithful need these certainties for their Christian life; they have a right to them, as children of God who abandon themselves entirely into his arms and to the exigencies of love."*

**Evangelii Nuntiandi, p 79.4**

## Beetle Drive

19th Perth Brownies and Rainbows are celebrating some significant birthdays this year - Brownies started in St John's 75 years ago and Rainbows started 25 years ago.

To raise funds, and to help us celebrate, we are having a Beetle drive on 22nd April 2016 from 7pm in St John's Church Hall. Cost is £3 for an adult and £1 for child.

Tickets are available from Brownies, Rainbows or from Miss Monaghan in St John's Academy as well as at the door.

## International Party

**Organised by our Indian, Filipino, Polish and Scots Communities**

**Friday 6th May**

**Tickets: available at Masses next Sunday**

**Tickets are FREE but only take one if you are actually going to attend as we need to know the numbers for catering**

**6.30-7pm International Mass in St John's Church**

**7-7.15pm - Arrival for party and soft drinks**

**7.15-7.45 Music performed by children from each group**

**7.50-8.45pm - Food**

**10pm - End**

## Italian Association

Thanks to all who supported the recent Bingo Tea - £656 was raised for Mary's Meals and the Mukuro Street Children Project.

The Association will meet on Saturday 30th April, at 1pm, followed by Mass in Italian at 2pm.

## 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.

## Franciscan Gathering

The year's Gathering of the Third Order of Franciscan's, OFS, will take place in St John's Perth on Saturday 10th May - joining the parish for the usual Weekday Mass 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