



*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 Easter, 3rd April 2016

# Witness to the Resurrection

Today's reading, from the Gospel of John, is proclaimed on the second Sunday of Easter in each of the three Sunday Lectionary cycles. This should alert us to the significance of the encounters with the resurrected Jesus described in this reading. This Gospel combines two scenes: Jesus' appearance to his disciples after his Resurrection and Jesus' dialogue with Thomas, the disciple who doubted.

Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. We do not know exactly what this form was like. Earlier in John's Gospel, when Mary of Magdala first encountered the risen Jesus, she did not recognize the figure standing before her until Jesus spoke her. In Luke's Gospel, the disciples walking on the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until he broke bread with them. We know from readings such as today's that in his resurrected body, Jesus was no longer bound by space; he appeared to the disciples in spite of the locked door. And yet, on this resurrected body, the disciples could still observe the marks of his Crucifixion.

In today's Gospel, Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus also commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun. As Jesus was sent by God, so too does Jesus send his disciples.



This continuity with Jesus' own mission is an essential element of the Church. Jesus grants the means to accomplish this mission when he gives his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit binds us together as a community of faith and strengthens us to bear witness to Jesus' Resurrection.

Jesus' words to his disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Forgiveness and reconciliation are gifts to us from Jesus. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share these with others. This is another essential aspect of what it means to be Christ's Church. The Church continues Jesus' ministry of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Thomas, the disciple who doubts, represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first community of disciples. All but the first disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, who was crucified and buried, appeared to his disciples. It is part of our human nature to seek hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the disciples after his death is, indeed, the same Jesus who was crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to be our representative who obtains this evidence. He gives witness to us that the Jesus who was raised is the same Jesus who had died. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed for we have not seen and yet have

## For today's Mass

### Responsorial Psalm

I will praise you, Lord,  
you have rescued me.

### Gospel Acclamation

Lord Jesus,  
explain the scriptures to us.  
Make our hearts  
burn within us  
as you talk to us.

## 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 soul of Anne Hutchison  
who died recently  
and for Maureen Morgan  
and all the faithful departed who  
anniversaries occur at this time.

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

### Perth Catholic Youth Project



## Holiday Club

Theme - An Easter Party  
For ages 8-11

9.15am- 3.15pm, Monday 4th April,  
in St John's Church Hall

Free admission - please bring  
a packed lunch

Please sign up on the noticeboard  
at the back of the church

## Collection

Thank you for your generosity - last  
Sunday's collection amounted to £575

## SCIAF Boxes

Thank you for returning your Lenten  
Alms - the SCIAF boxes raised a total  
of £461.91

## Special collection

Next Sunday a Columban Sister will  
make a Missionary appeal in our parish.

## Beetle Drive

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

To raise funds, and to help us cele-  
brate, 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.

This lets you play the game, a cup of  
tea / juice and some biscuits / cakes.  
There will be a raffle and a cake and  
candy stall.

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

# A Happy and Holy Easter to you all

*Mgr Hendry*

## Collection boxes

Boxes of envelopes are available for  
those who support of planned Sunday  
giving. If you do not already use this  
system for your collection, which per-  
mits the Church to recover Gift Aid  
on your contribution, please consider  
consider this and speak to Mgr Hendry

## Lourdes 2016

Dunkeld Diocesan 2016 Pilgrim-  
age to Lourdes led by Bishop Stephen  
Robson on 8th - 15th July, by air from  
Edinburgh. For further information see  
notice at back of the Church.

## Perth Italian Association

# BINGO TEA

*in aid of*

*Mukuru Street Children,  
Mary's Meals and Club Funds*

**Eyes Down 7.30pm,  
Monday 11th April**

**in St John's Church Hall, Melville Street**

*Tickets £1 Inc. Refreshments*

*Fantastic Prizes and Raffle*

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*