



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

St Mary Magdalene's Church

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Monsignor Charles Hendry - Parish Priest

17th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C, 24th July 2016

A model of prayer

Luke gives more attention to Jesus' teachings on prayer than any other Gospel writer. He also mentions Jesus at prayer more than the others. In today's reading, from the beginning of Chapter 11 of his Gospel, Luke presents the core of Jesus' teaching on prayer. It consists of Jesus teaching a prayer to his disciples, a parable on the persistent neighbor, and assurances that God hears our prayers.

The disciples notice Jesus praying "in a certain place." They ask him to teach them to pray just as John the Baptist had taught his disciples. Jesus teaches them a simple version of the most famous Christian prayer, the Our Father, or the Lord's Prayer. Matthew's version shows signs of being shaped by public prayer. Luke's version is probably closer to the original form that Jesus taught. Stripped of much of the language we are used to, Luke's version seems simple and direct. We pray that God's name will be recognized as holy and that his rule over all will be established. This is followed by petitions for our needs for bread, for forgiveness, and for deliverance. Luke uses the more theological language of "sins" rather than "debts," which is used in Matthew's version.

Having taught his disciples a simple, daily

prayer, Jesus goes on to reassure them that God answers prayers. First he tells a parable about a persistent neighbor who asks a friend for bread at midnight. The friend is already in bed and has no desire to disturb his family by opening the door. But because the neighbour is persistent, the sleeping man gets up and gives him all that he needs. If a neighbor is willing to help us if we are persistent enough, how could God not respond to our requests?

This teaching concludes with the reminder that if we seek, we will get a response. If a human father, with all his faults, knows how to give good gifts to his children, how much more will our heavenly Father give us? Instead of good gifts, however, Luke substitutes the word Holy Spirit. This foreshadows the gift of the Holy Spirit, who is central to Luke's theology and who will play an important role in the growth of the early Church after Pentecost.

The parable and the concluding teaching



in this section should not lead us to think of prayer as a series of requests presented to God. Rather, as Jesus teaches in his model prayer, prayer consists in recognizing God's holiness and his rule over all things.

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

On the day I called,
you answered me,
O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

The Word was made flesh
and lived among us;
to all who did accept him
he gave power
to become children of God.



Krakow, Poland
July 26-31, 2016

Kraków
SDM
JULY 26-31

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy"
(Matthew 5:7)

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 Greta Boyle, Susan Connolly, Elizabeth Drysdale and David Hunter, and the souls of all the faithful departed whose anniversaries occur at this time.

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

FEASTDAYS THIS WEEK

Monday 25th

St James the Apostle

Tuesday 26th

St Joachim and St Anne

Friday 29th

St Martha

Saturday 30th

St Peter Chrysologus

Collection

Thank you for your generosity - last Sunday's collection amounted to £363.20.

World Youth Day 2016

This week Bishop Robson leads a group of young people from our diocese, including several from Perth, to the World Youth Day in Krakow.

Prayer for the Year of Mercy



*Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful
like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that
whoever sees you sees Him.
Show us your face and we will be saved.*

*You are the visible face
of the invisible Father,
of the God who manifests his power
above all by forgiveness and mercy:
let the Church be your visible face
in the world,
its Lord risen and glorified.*

*Send your Spirit and consecrate
every one of us with its anointing,
so that the Jubilee of Mercy
may be a year of grace from the Lord,
and your Church,
with renewed enthusiasm,
may bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives
and the oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.*

*We ask this through the intercession
of Mary, Mother of Mercy,
you who live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit
for ever and ever.
Amen.*

Justice and Peace

The Christian lives under the interior law of liberty, which is a permanent call to turn away from self-sufficiency to confidence in God and from concern for self to sincere love of neighbour. Thus takes place genuine liberation and the gift of oneself for the freedom of others.

Justice in the World p.33

Race Night

Our Lady of Lourdes parish are holding a Race Night in St John's Church Hall on Friday 29th July- starting at 7pm - in aid of the Church Hall building Fund.

Tickets are £5 (inc. buffet and a glass of wine) - wine will also be available on the night - also BYOB.

For tickets - please see Joan Sweeney.

Permanent Diaconate Ordination for Krzy

Krzysztof Jablonski will be ordained as a Permanent Deacon on Thursday 4th August, by Bishop Stephen Robson in St Andrew's Cathedral Dundee at 7pm.

A coach from the parish will be organised by St John's and if you would like to join us please add your name to the list at the back of St John's.



Catholic Papers

Catholic newspapers the Scottish Catholic Observer, Catholic Herald, Catholic Times etc are available in the church porch - please take copies and share them with the wider community.

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