



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

19th Sunday of Year C, 7th August 2016

A time to be watchful

Jesus' instructions on how to be ready for the coming judgment continue in the stories and sayings found in today's Gospel. We are not to be like the greedy rich man in last Sunday's Gospel who planned to store his great harvest in barns rather than share it. We are, rather, to share our wealth with those in need. The antidote for the anxiety brought on by the coming judgment is to relinquish our possessions and provide for the needs of others. Our treasure will be in heaven where it will not wear out or be destroyed.

The other major way to be ready for the coming judgment is to be watchful. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells a parable about watchfulness to begin making this point. We must be like servants waiting for the master's return from a wedding banquet, which, even now, can last for a few days in the Middle East. We must be watchful so that even if the master comes after midnight, we will be ready for him. This is what the coming of the Son of Man will be like.

Peter asks if this parable is meant for the apostles or for the large crowd that has gathered to listen to Jesus. Without answering Peter's question, Jesus responds with another parable about servants awaiting the

return of their master. It begins with a question: "Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward whom the master will put in charge of his servants to distribute the food allowance at the proper time?" This parable adds to the theme of watchfulness; it explains how to wait and reminds us of the reward for the faithful follower at the heavenly banquet after the judgment. If it is addressed to the apostles, then it could also be addressed to leadership in the early Church. Either way, the parables reminds us that we should be found doing our jobs when the master arrives. If we are doing our jobs, our reward will be great. But if we relax, neglect our duties, and begin to act like the greedy rich man—eating, drinking, and making merrymaking—we will not have a place in the kingdom. Watchfulness means living in such a consistently moral and obedient way that we are always ready to give an account to God of how we have lived.



“Faith should be allowed to play a role in public life” writes newly-appointed Director of the Scottish Catholic Parliamentary Office

Writing in this Thursday's Scotsman Anthony Horan counters claims that society is becoming less religious simply because increasing numbers of people no longer tick a “church” box on census forms suggesting this doesn't mean they are not interested in the spiritual dimension of life or religious belief. Rather, the national census still shows that most Scots consider themselves Christian, while an overwhelming majority describe themselves as “spiritual”.

Quoting Pope Francis, he says, “Our various religious traditions serve society primarily by the message they proclaim. They call individuals and communities to worship God, the source of all life, liberty and happiness”.

Whilst pointing to an increase in the number of Catholic in Scotland and across the world, Anthony sets out his mission to promote the Catholic faith and Social Teaching “in a way that positively engages secular society.”



For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

Happy are the people
the Lord has chosen as his own.

Gospel Acclamation

Blessed are you,
Father, Lord of heaven
and earth,
for revealing the mysteries
of the kingdom
to mere children.

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 Gladys Pugh and Fr Jaques Hamil 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 8th

St Dominic - priest

St Mary McKillop

Tuesday 9th

St Theresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein) - Martyr

Wednesday 10th

St Clare - virgin

Collection

Thank you for your generosity - last Sunday's collection amounted to £337.25.

New deacon

Congratulations to our new Permanent Deacon - Kris Jablonski - who was ordained this week and who will serve in the parishes of St John's and St Mary Magdalene's, Perth.

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.



Perth Foodbank

The need for food parcels continues to grow. Since 1st April supply of parcels has increased by 37% and the number of people helped by 45%.

Although we have an adequate stock of most foodstuffs, we are in urgent need of more sugar, long-life milk, juice and treats (sweets, chocolate and crisps). Donations can be left in the Foodbank box at the back of the church after each weekend Mass.

We also urgently need more volunteers to cope with the extra demand. If you can spare a couple of hours one afternoon, please speak to Ivan Carnegie or David Smith.

COMING COLLECTIONS

Mensal Fund

21st August

Ecclesiastical Students Fund

17th September

Bene Merenti

Congratulations to Claire Gallagher on being awarded the Papal medal - Bene Merenti for over 50 years of faithful service to the Church music - and much more!



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