



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

## 20th Sunday of Year C, 14th August 2016

# Strengthened by the Holy Spirit

Having reminded the apostles and the crowd that facing the coming judgment takes patience, Jesus now goes on to speak of how difficult it will be to wait. He tells them that he has come to set the earth on fire. Recall that in chapter 3 of Luke's Gospel, John the Baptist tells the crowd that he is baptizing with water, but someone mightier is coming who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. The fire Jesus speaks of here is the distress caused by the coming judgment. It is also the fire of the Spirit that Luke, in the Acts of the Apostles, will describe descending on the disciples on Pentecost. That fire will strengthen them to go out to the whole world to preach the good news of Jesus' Resurrection.

Jesus will be the first to experience the distress of the coming judgment. His baptism will be the conflict into which he will be immersed as he approaches Jerusalem and his death on the cross. His followers will not be spared that distress. The angels at Jesus' birth proclaimed peace on earth, and Simeon, holding the baby Jesus in the Temple, said to God: "Master, now you may let your servant go in peace." Here Jesus tells the crowd not to think he has come to bring peace; he has come to bring division. Simeon said as much when he turned to Mary and said that the child was destined for the rise and fall of many and to be a sign that will be contradicted. Peace is the ultimate end of the Kingdom of God, but peace has a price. Jesus is warning the crowd that wherever the

Word of God is heard and acted upon, division occurs. Fathers will be divided against sons and mothers against daughters.

The coming judgment forces us to look at the implications of our commitments. As Jesus warned in last Sunday's Gospel, a commitment of faith requires us to change our attitude toward material possessions and to take even more seriously our moral responsibilities. Here he reminds the crowd that those who commit to him will find it affects the way they relate to friends and family members. The angel who announced the birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah said

John would go before Jesus to turn the hearts of fathers toward their children. But a commitment to Jesus forces us to change the way we live our lives, and this can put strains on relationships.

We don't expect to hear such difficult words from Jesus in the Gospel. But it is good to be reminded once in a while that the decision to do the right thing, the good thing, is not always easy and without conflict. Jesus himself did not make easy decisions and avoid conflict. In today's reading, he reminds his followers to be prepared for difficult decisions and conflict as well.



*Grateful to God for having called me to serve as a Deacon, I desire to express my thanks, to people who contributed to the plan of God that is fulfilled in me.*

*I wish to thank all priests in particular my parish priest, Mgr Martin Drysdale, our Polish priest Fr Bogdan Palka and my spiritual director Mgr Charles Hendry. Those priests have shown me support and true love, as Jesus asks of all of us.*

*I want to thank all the parishioners of St John the Baptist Church and St*

*Mary Magdalene's Church. It is our common prayer and our time spent on the Eucharist, that led to a true friendship between us and Christ.*

*I do not want to mention any names, because your names forever will be hidden at the bottom of my heart, where jointly adore in continuous prayer to God. I thank you all for your prayers and your real and tangible help in my diaconate studies. I thank God every day for all of you.*

*Deacon Kris*

## For today's Mass

### Responsorial Psalm

Lord, come to my aid.

### Gospel Acclamation

Open our heart, O Lord,  
to accept the words  
of your Son.

## 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 Bishop Daly (Bishop Emeritus of Derry) 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 15th

Feast of the Assumption  
- Solemnity (not a Holy Day)

### Tuesday 16th

St Stephen of Hungary - priest

### Saturday 20th

St Bernard - abbot, doctor

## Collection

Thank you for your generosity - last Sunday's collection amounted to £303.10.

## Ordinations

Please pray for Ninian Doohan who will be ordained to the priesthood on Monday 15th August, at 7pm in St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee. Please pray for Dr Harry Schnitker who will be ordained to the Permanent Diaconate at 11am on Sunday 4th September, in St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee - for service in our prisons.

## 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