



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

## 21st Sunday of Year C, 21st August 2016

# Inheriting eternal life

Today's Gospel reading is the third of three parables in chapter 13 that deal with the theme of the unexpected reversals brought by the Kingdom of God. The other two parables are about the tiny mustard seed that grows into a large tree and the small amount of yeast that makes a large batch of dough rise. All three are about the few and the many and the Kingdom of God.

As this parable opens, Luke reminds us that Jesus is making his way to Jerusalem. This journey, this exodus as Luke refers to it, makes up the entire middle of the Gospel. He is teaching as he goes. A question from the crowd gives Jesus the chance to make a prophetic statement. Luke uses this question device a number of times in his Gospel. A few weeks ago, the question "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" led to the parable of the Good Samaritan. The question about will only a few be saved uses typical Christian language about salvation but also expresses the Jewish concern about whether everyone who calls himself a Jew is actually faithful to the covenant. This was a concern of the Pharisees.

Jesus answers that they must strive in the time remaining to enter through the narrow door because many will be trying to get in but won't be strong enough. He then moves to a parable about another door. (The translation says "gate" then "door," but the same Greek word is used.) Once all those entering the master's house are in and he locks the door, there will be no way for others to



get in. Those left outside may knock, but the master will say he doesn't know them. Unlike the Gospel reading from a few weeks ago where Jesus was teaching about prayer, and we were told to knock and the door would be opened, in this parable, the master will not open and say he does not know us. People from the north, south, east, and west will take our place inside. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets will take our place in the Kingdom of God. Those who do not make it through the narrow door will be cast out to where there is wailing and grinding of teeth.

The image of the door is replaced in the final verses of the parable with the image of the heavenly banquet. Two passages from the Book of Isaiah influence the conclusion. Isaiah 43:5-6 speaks of God bringing Israel's descendants back from the east and from the west, the north and the south. And Isaiah 25:6 speaks of the Lord providing a feast of rich foods and choice wines for all peoples on his holy mountain. The answer to the question if only a few will be saved is no. In the end, many will be saved, but many who thought they would be saved will not be saved. The parable is a prophetic warning to repentance in order to enter the kingdom.

### Introduction to Working in a Catholic School

with Margaret McFarlane

4.30-6.30pm, **23rd August**  
at St Ninian Pastoral Institute, Dundee  
*Free entry - funded by the diocese*

### God's Loving Plan

Two identical presentations for teachers and parents who have not yet had an opportunity to explore this programme with Mgr Ken McCaffrey

4.30-6.30pm, **30th August**  
at St Ninian Pastoral Institute, Dundee  
*and*  
4.30-6.30pm, **7th September**  
at St John's Academy, Perth  
*Free entry - funded by the diocese*

### The Sacrament of Confirmation

4.30-6.30pm, **31st August**  
First of three identical presentations  
Followed by 3 on-line assessments  
with Canon Kevin Golden  
at St Ninian Pastoral Institute, Dundee  
*Module with assessment - £50*  
*Presentation only - £10*

### Catholic approach to atheism

First of two identical presentations exploring the concepts of atheism humanism from a Catholic perspective  
Followed by 3 on-line assessments  
with Fr Rogi Thomas

7pm-8.30pm, **6th September**  
at St Ninian Pastoral Institute, Dundee  
*Module with assessment - £100*  
*Presentation only - £10*

### Introduction to Islam

Examining the core teaching of Islam from a Catholic viewpoint  
Followed by 3 on-line assessments  
with Dr Harry Schnitker

7pm-8.30pm, **13th September**  
St Ninian Pastoral Institute, Dundee  
*Module with assessment - £100*  
*Presentation only - £10*

### The Human Being through Catholic eyes

An introduction to Catholic Anthropology  
with Bishop John Keenan

7pm-8.30pm, **6th October**  
St Ninian Pastoral Institute, Dundee  
*Module with assessment - £100*  
*Presentation only - £10*

### ENQUIRIES AND REGISTRATION

- call 01382 225453 or email  
stninian@dunkelldiocese.org.uk

## For today's Mass

### Responsorial Psalm

Go out to the whole world;  
proclaim the Good News.

### Gospel Acclamation

Your words are spirit, Lord  
and they are life:  
you have the message

## 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

Sandy Kelly, Barry Christie, Gustavine and James Walker 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 22nd

Our Lady, Mother and Queen

### Tuesday 23rd

St Rose of Lima

### Wednesday 24th

St Bartholomew

### Saturday 27th

St Monica

## Collection

Thank you for your generosity - last Sunday's collection amounted to £283.62.

There will be a second collection this Sunday in aid of the Bishop's upkeep - the Mensal Fund.

The next second collection will be on Sunday 17th September - in aid of the Student Priesthood Fund.

## Ordinations and Vocations

We pray for Fr Ninian Doohan who was ordained to the priesthood earlier this week - we wish him a very joyful and fruitful ministry in our diocese.

We pay also for Dr Harry Schnitker who will be ordained to the Permanent Diaconate at 11am on Sunday 4th September - for service in our prisons.

Please keep the following student priests in your prayers:

Malcolm Hutchison as he begins his studies in the Pontifical Scots College in Rome in September;

Jude Mukuro, who will be with Mgr Ken McCaffrey in Ss Peter and Paul's, Dundee until he begins his studies in January in St Mary's College, Oscott;

Andrew Marshall who has now completed his fourth year at St Mary's, Oscott.

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE IN HONOUR OF

ST MARGARET  
OF SCOTLAND

SUNDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER

Carfin Grotto

Mass at 3pm

Principal Celebrant  
will be Archbishop Tartaglia

Preacher will be  
Archbishop Leo Cushley

## There will be a second collection this Sunday in aid of the Bishop's upkeep - the Mensal Fund.

## Supporting St Stephen's, Blairgowrie

The Cecilian Choir have very kindly agreed to perform a Charity Concert at the Town Hall, Blairgowrie on Monday September 26th from 7pm to 10pm in aid of the planned repair programme for St. Stephen's RC Church, Blairgowrie.

Tickets (at £10 each which includes a glass of wine and finger buffet).

During the interval there will be wine, soft drinks and snacks.

If you require further information please contact Margaret Young 01250 875086

## Coffee Morning

Coffee Morning for Cornhill Macmillan Drop-in Centre in St John's RC Church Hall on Saturday, 3rd September from 10am-2pm. Home Baking, Raffle, Tombola.

## Justice and Peace

*... all are equal. There is here no difference between rich and poor, between masters and servants, between rulers and ruled: 'all belong to the same Lord'. Nor may anyone violate with impunity the dignity of the human person, whom God himself treats 'with great reverence', or to impede progress to that perfection which corresponds with the eternal life in heaven.*

**Rerum Novarum p.41**

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