



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

# St Mary Magdalene's Church

7, Glenearn Road, Perth, PH2 0BD

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Monsignor Charles Hendry - Parish Priest

## 1st of Advent, Year A, 27th November 2016

# Be vigilant and stay ready

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of a new liturgical year for the Church. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. It is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. Key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Matthew will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle A). In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus speak about the need for wakefulness, for watchful waiting, for the coming of the Son of Man.

Matthew's Gospel is dated by most scholars after 70 A.D. Most believe that Matthew wrote for a primarily

### For today's Mass

#### Responsorial Psalm

The Lord gathers all nations together into the eternal peace of God's kingdom.

#### Gospel Acclamation

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and show us your saving help



Jewish community, but one that was no longer centred on the Temple in Jerusalem. These were Jewish Christians trying to come to terms with their relationship to Judaism in a new situation: Judaism after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. There may have been Christians who believed that the events of the world around them gave evidence of the imminent return of the Lord in glory.

The passage from Matthew we read today is rather straightforward. No one knows the precise time of the coming of the Lord in glory, so watchful waiting and vigilance are required. The passage speaks to the uselessness of looking for signs; there will be none. As a thief

sneaks in during the night, so will the Lord's coming in glory be.

The question for us as members of the Christian community, then, is how do we prepare for this? Today's passage speaks more about the manner of waiting, rather than the details of the preparation. Jesus compares the vigilance required of Christians to the vigilance of a homeowner who knows the plans of the thief. If one knows that the thief's action is imminent, one remains watchful. As Christians, we know that our Lord is coming even if we cannot know the precise timing. Jesus calls us to be watchful and vigilant, like the homeowner. If we become lax in our Christian living, we may be caught unprepared.

## 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 the repose  
of the soul of Leslie Robson  
and for all the Holy Souls

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

## FEASTDAYS

**Wednesday 30th November**  
St Andrew

**Saturday 3rd December**  
St Francis Xavier

## Penitential Service

**St John the Baptist's  
Church**

**7pm, Monday  
19th December**

**A number of priests will be  
available for confession**

## Collection

Thank you for your generosity -  
last Sunday's collection amounted to  
£427.16.

## Poor Mission

There will be a second collection  
next weekend in aid of the Poor Mis-  
sion Fund - a fund which supports the  
less well off parishes in our diocese.

## Prayers

Mass will be said in St Mary Mag-  
dalene's on Wednesday, at 7am, for the  
repose of the soul of Leslie Robson,  
Bishop Stephen's father.

## *Out of the depths*

*Out of the depths  
I have cried to thee, O Lord,  
Lord hear my voice.  
Let thine ears be attentive  
to the voice of my supplication.  
If thou, O Lord; shalt mark iniquities,  
Lord, who shall stand it?  
For with thee there is merciful forgiveness;  
and by reason of thy law  
I have waited for thee, O Lord.  
My soul has relied on his word:  
my soul has hoped in the Lord.  
From the morning watch even until night  
let Israel hope in the Lord.  
Because with the Lord there is mercy,  
and with him plentiful redemption.  
And he shall redeem Israel  
from all his iniquities.  
Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace. Amen.*

*May their souls  
and the souls of all the faithful departed  
through the mercy of God,  
rest in peace. Amen.*

## St John's

### Annual Christmas Carol Service

**7.30pm  
Sunday, 11th December**

**Teas, coffees etc in the hall  
afterwards**

## Our Lady's UCM

UCM (Our Lady's) are running a bus  
to The Commitments, Edinburgh Play-  
house on 4th March 2017 and you are  
most welcome to join them on a first  
come first served basis. Cost of ticket is  
£34.50 payable by the end of Novem-  
ber 2016. Bus will leave from outside  
Our Lady's at 10am. The morning will  
be free and the matinee begins at 2.30.  
Tickets will be handed out on the bus.  
Money for the bus will be collected  
at a later date nearer the time. Please  
add your name to the list at the back of  
the church and pay to UCM treasurer  
Linda Taylor (07731 465162) or Reta  
Burke (07792 287660)

## St John's Academy

Mass will be said at 7pm on Wednes-  
day 30th November, to mark the 5th  
anniversary of the opening of the new  
school.

Canon Kevin Golden, administrator  
at the Cathedral, and Vicar Episcopal  
for Adult Faith Formation, will repre-  
sent Bishop Stephen.

## Italian Association

Tickets are now available for the Ital-  
ian Christmas Dinner in McDiarmid  
Park on Tuesday 13th December - cost  
£30.

Italian classes continue on Satur-  
days at 4.15pm in the Small Hall at St  
John's. All welcome - beginners and  
fluent speakers.

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**ARE YOU GOING TO BE IN HOSPITAL? DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO IS IN HOSPITAL?**  
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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital \_\_\_\_\_ Ward \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete/ tear off and hand it to Mgr Hendry after Mass