



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

7th Sunday of the Year A, 19th February 2017

Bishop Stephen's Pastoral Letter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Lent is slightly different this year in that as part of our penitential celebrations I would like to alert you to a new Movement which originated in the USA and has rapidly swept the Catholic World: the 40 Days Prayer for Lent. Being an important and infamous anniversary the year 2017 marks the Fiftieth Anniversary of the passing of the Abortion Act.

Shortly, the Scottish Parliament will have competence for matters relating to abortion and so this prayer initiative will help us focus our Lenten prayer this year in this particular direction.

What is enclosed within this Pastoral Letter is a letter from the Diocesan Director of 40 Days for Life, Mrs Pat Dowey. Please listen to at Mass or read it and consider joining those who have pledged their prayer time for the protection of Unborn children. Or else pledge some time to pray for the protection of innocent Life in the womb this Lent. The letter reads as below:

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is compassion
and love.

Gospel Acclamation

If anyone loves me
he will keep my word,
and my Father
will love him,
and we shall come to him.

"The World Health Organisation has stated that abortion is the leading cause of death worldwide, ending the lives of more than 42 million children each year and harming millions of women- and men.

Since the passing of the Abortion Act in 1967, more than 500,000 babies in Scotland alone have lost their lives as a result of abortion. Last year in Scotland, 12,082 babies died as a result of abortion and 11,877 of these were aborted on social grounds.

These were all children created in the image and likeness of God, just like you and me; so what can we do to begin to restore respect for the sanctity of Life.

*God has given us a powerful weapon...
Prayer!*

40 Days for Life is a new prayer initiative which has empowered thousands of ordinary people all over the world to combat the "Culture of Death," as St John Paul has called it, by Prayer and Fasting, and especially by taking part in peaceful prayer vigils. As a result, babies are being saved, hearts are being healed from past abortions and minds are being changed on arguably the most controversial issue in our society today.

Last year, Glasgow held the first 40 Days for Life prayer campaign in Scotland. Now in 2017, which sees the 50th anniversary of the passing of the Abortion Act, all 4 major Scottish cities; Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee will be holding a 40 Days for Life campaign during Lent, and here in our own Diocese of Dunkeld we have been greatly encouraged by the support of our Bishop.

I would like to invite you to take part this Lent by giving an hour of your time to join us in prayer at the vigil site on Ninewells Avenue, Dundee. Please think about making this opportunity a part of your Lenten penitential exercises. The vigil hours are 8am-8pm, beginning on 1st March (Ash

Wednesday) and ending on 9th April (Palm Sunday).

Recently some papers have tried to blacken this prayer campaign by describing it as a politically motivated protest. I would like to emphasise that 40 Days for Life is neither a protest nor a demonstration and we will not be engaging in any debates. Neither will we impede anyone in any way from going about their business, let alone disturb visitors to the Hospital. We are simply there to pray, nothing else. The local police have been informed of our intentions and have been supportive, especially of our plans for everyone taking part to sign a statement of peace.

I do hope that you will decide to come, not only in response to this invitation but to the appeal of Christ Himself, who asks "Could you not watch with me for one hour?"

You can sign up for an hour of your choosing after all masses next weekend or go online, prayforlife@gmail.com, where you can leave your name, address, phone number and e-mail address. Please also state on that occasion the day and time most suitable for you."

Finally, as Bishop I do hope that you will help support this initiative, which is an admirable one, which can also be followed at home for those, outside the immediate environs of Dundee and unable to join the prayer circle at Ninewells Avenue in Dundee

Yours sincerely in Christ

**+ Stephen Robson
Bishop of Dunkeld**

AROUND PERTH

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

Rosemary O'Hanlan,
Peggy Hayes, Colin Morton,
Annetta and Ralph Giulianotti
who have died recently and all
whose anniversaries
occur about this time

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

FEASTDAYS

Tuesday

21st February

St Peter Damian

Wednesday

22nd February

St Peter's Chair

Thursday

23rd February

St Polycarp, Bishop

Collection

Thank you for your generosity - last Sunday's collection amounted to £229.

Special Collection

Last Sunday's special collection in support of the Catholic Education Service raised £117 - thank you.

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.

Art Exhibition

The St Ninian Institute is hosting an Art Exhibition, with works by Dundee Artist and Musician Maggie T Ferrie, from Monday 20th February until Saturday 25th February.

Maggie is lead singer in the Swizzle Sisters and a former pupil of Lawside Academy in Dundee and is excited by the opportunity to be presenting her work in the building which was her old school.

Open from 2-4pm each day at the St Ninian Institute, 24-28 Lawside Road, Dundee, admission is free.

Beginning experience

The Beginning Experience are holding a residential weekend for those who find themselves alone again through divorce, separation or widowhood.

The weekend will take place from 31st March - 2nd April, St Mary's, Kinnoull, Perth.

For further details contact: Ros on 01316690003 or email: rcm2524@yahoo.co.uk. Complete applications must be returned by Friday 24th March, 2017.

Justice and Peace

Inequality eventually engenders a violence which recourse to arms cannot and never will be able to resolve. It serves only to offer false hopes to those clamouring for heightened security, even though nowadays we know that weapons and violence, rather than providing solutions, create new and more serious conflicts.

Evangelii Gaudium

"The Joy of the Gospel" 60

Carnevale

Masked Dinner Dance

on Monday - for Martedi Grasso



**27th February 2017
7pm, for 7.30pm**



**in
St John's Church Hall
for tickets please telephone
622661 or 626892**

Ticket €10

Grand Raffle

**For tickets and catering purposes - please add your name
to the list at the back of the church**

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