

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

# St Mary Magdalene's Church

7, Glenearn Road, Perth, PH2 0BD

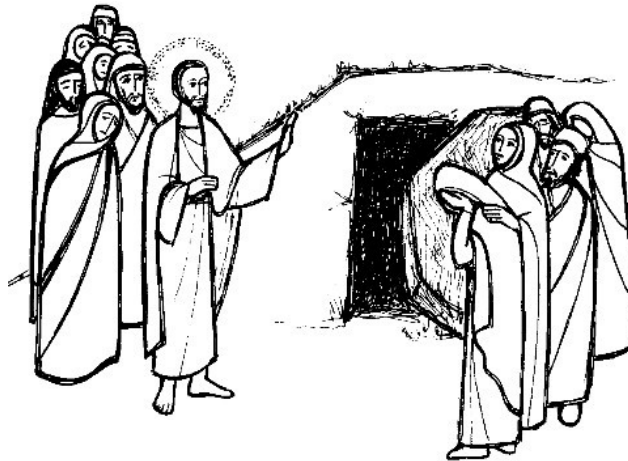
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Monsignor Charles Hendry - Parish Priest

## 5th Sunday of Lent Year A, 2nd April 2017

# I am the resurrection and the life

Our Gospel on this day, the fifth Sunday of Lent, is again taken from the Gospel according to John. The reading from John continues the break from Cycle A's focus on the Gospel of Matthew. Today's Gospel reading recounts another sign, or miracle, found in John's Gospel, the raising of Lazarus. As our catechumens move closer to the celebration of their Baptisms at the Triduum, today's reading invites us to reflect upon what it means to call Jesus the Resurrection and the life.



Whoever  
believes  
in me will  
never die

The context for the story of the raising of Lazarus is the Jewish leaders' growing animosity toward Jesus. Jesus has been in Jerusalem, taking part in the feast of the Dedication, which we have come to know as Hanukkah. The people have been pressing him to declare plainly whether he is the Messiah. Jesus tells them to look to his works, which testify to his coming from God. Many do not believe Jesus, however, and some try to stone him for blasphemy.

Into this scene of confrontation, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, send word to Jesus that his friend is ill. Jesus is said to love Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, but he delays his journey for two days. The delay heightens the drama and shows Jesus' obedience to God, who is to be glorified through Lazarus' resurrection. When Jesus finally declares that he will journey to Bethany, his disciples fear for his life. Thomas declares that he and the other disciples should prepare to die with Jesus.

who begin their plans for Jesus' death.

Set against the backdrop of Jesus' impending death, many elements of the raising of Lazarus foreshadow the good news of Jesus' own Resurrection. Jesus, facing the conflict with the Jewish authorities, acts in complete obedience to God. In raising Lazarus, Jesus shows his power over death so that when Jesus dies, those who believe in him might remember that and take hope. Just as Jesus calls for the stone to be rolled away from Lazarus's tomb, so too will the disciples find the stone rolled away from Jesus' tomb.

The scene described at Bethany is a sad one. Martha meets Jesus weeping and saying that if Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Yet she remains confident that God will do whatever Jesus asks. Martha affirms her belief that there will be a resurrection of the dead in the last days. Then Martha's sister, Mary, comes to Jesus with the same confidence, saying that Jesus could have cured Lazarus. Jesus asks to be brought to Lazarus's tomb where he prays and calls Lazarus out from the tomb. At this sign, many come to believe in Jesus, but others take word of the miracle to the Jewish authorities,

With our catechumens preparing for their Baptism at Easter, the Gospel today calls us to reflect on Baptism as a dying and rising with Jesus. In Baptism we die to sin's power over us, rising as children of God. In Baptism we join ourselves with Christ, who conquered death once and for all so that we who believe in him may have eternal life. With Martha and Mary, we are called to profess our belief that Jesus is indeed the Resurrection and the life.

### For today's Mass

#### Responsorial Psalm

With the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption.

#### Gospel Acclamation

I am the resurrection  
and the life,  
says the Lord,  
whoever believes in me  
will never die.

## 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 Maureen Morgan and the Borzoni family and for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time

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

## Justice and Peace

*We are the heirs of earlier generations, and we reap benefits from the efforts of our contemporaries; we are under obligation to all men. Therefore we cannot disregard the welfare of those who will come after us to increase the human family. The reality of human solidarity brings us not only benefits but also obligations*

**Populorum Progressio , 17**

## Collection

Thank you for your generosity - last Sunday's collection amounted to £250.60.

## SCIAF Collection

Thank you for your generosity - last Sunday's SCIAF collection amounted to £215.45.

## Wee Boxes

Please remember to continue your Lenten Alms - using the SCIAF Wee Boxes - and to bring them to the church on Maundy Thursday.

## Planned giving envelopes

Envelopes are now available from the sacristy for those who take part in the planned giving scheme. We are most grateful to you for your faithful support - and the system also enables us to recover your Gift Aid donations too. For more details contact Mgr Hendry.

## Via Crucis

The service of Stations of the Cross will take place in Italian, in St John's, on Saturdays during Lent, at 2pm.

## Passover Meal

St John's are holding a Passover Meal at 7pm on Thursday 6th April, in readiness for Holy Week. This event is now fully booked.

## Lenten Retreat

Dunkeld Youth Service is holding a Lenten Retreat for young people aged from 12-15 in the St Joseph's Retreat Centre, 24-28 Lawside Road, Dundee, overnight on Saturday and Sunday 1st-2nd April. Speak to your parish priest for more details - or contact Frankie McGuire [dunkeldyouth@dunkelddiocese.org.uk](mailto:dunkeldyouth@dunkelddiocese.org.uk) for more details.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS and BENEDICTION

**3pm, Sundays during Lent**

**6pm, Mass on Fridays during Lent - 1st Friday**

## Italian Pilgrims

The Italian Association's Biennial Pilgrimage will take place from 11-18th September 2017 - visiting Rome, Assisi and Orvieto. If you are interested in taking part - please contact Norma Giulianotti - 01738 622661 for more details.

## Venerable Margaret Sinclair

A play portraying the life of the Venerable Margaret Sinclair will be performed in the St Joseph's Retreat Centre in Lawside, Dundee, on Saturday 6th May, at 7.30pm, directed by author Stephen Callaghan.

The drama portrays the life the young Scottish girl, of whom St John Paul II said "she could well be described as one of God's little ones, who through her very simplicity, was touched by God with the strength of real holiness of life, whether as a child, a young woman, an apprentice, a factory worker, a member of a Trade Union or a professed Sister of religion."

Tickets £10 (£5 concessions) - call 01382 6225453 to book.

## PALM SUNDAY

**Catechesis - Mass - Fellowship**  
**1.30pm - 5.30pm, 9th April**  
at St Mary's Monastery, Kinnoull

for all young people aged 12-25  
from throughout Scotland

### COME ALONG

Give them a warm Perth welcome

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