



*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

## 4th Sunday of Lent Year A, 26th March 2017

# The living waters

As we did last week, we are reading today from the Gospel of John. In today's Gospel, the healing of the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. In the first part of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man's blindness—his own or his parents'. Jesus does not answer directly, but instead gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man's disability, God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man.

The healing is controversial because Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees, the religious authorities of Jesus' time, understood that the law of Moses



forbade work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle. To determine whether the man was really born blind, the Pharisees question him and his parents. The man challenges the leaders of the synagogue about their assessment of the good that Jesus has done. In turn, they expel the man for questioning their judgment.

The final revelation and moment of enlightenment comes when the man born blind encounters Jesus again. Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks out the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man. In this moment, the man born blind shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus re-

plies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Jesus: Those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind.

As in last week's Gospel about Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman, today's reading has many allusions to Baptism. The washing of the man in the pool of Siloam is a prototype for Christian Baptism. Through the man's encounter with Jesus, the man born blind is healed, his sight is restored, and his conversion to discipleship begins. The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind.

## For today's Mass

### Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.

### Gospel Acclamation

I am the light of the world,  
says the Lord;  
anyone who believes in me  
will have the light of life.

## 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 Giuseppe Borzoni, Julia Giulianotti, Angelo Borzoni and Julia Borzoni and for John Bradley (Derry) 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

*"An authentic faith – which is never comfortable or completely personal – always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it."*

**Evangelii Gaudium, 184**

## Collection

Thank you for your generosity - last Sunday's collection amounted to £290.60.

## SCIAF leaflets

Thanks to Fr Mike Freyne, Dunkeld's Vicar Episcopal for Mission Awareness, who reports on the good work being carried out in our diocese in preparation for **today's second collection** in aid of the Papal and Episcopal Charities (including SCIAF). Please be generous in support of this work - especially in the light of recent news. *Leaflets available at the back of the church.*

## Wee Boxes

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

## Prayers

Please pray for Stacey Cameron will make her final profession of vows as a Sister of St Peter Claver during a special Mass on Saturday 25th March, the Solemnity of the Annunciation, at 12.30pm in St Gerard's Church, Bellshill.

## 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. If you would like to join them please add your name to the list at the back of St John's.

## 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**

## 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