



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

St Mary Magdalene's Church

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Monsignor Charles Hendry - Parish Priest
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6th Sunday of the Ordinary Time, Year B, 11th February 2018

Enlighten the eyes of our mind

In today's Gospel, we continue to hear Mark report the miraculous healings that Jesus performed in Galilee. The Gospel begins with Jesus healing a man with leprosy. Leprosy is a disfiguring, infectious skin disease that has been surrounded by many social and religious taboos throughout history. In 1873, the cause of leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, was identified. We now know that leprosy is caused by a bacterial infection. Although it is infectious, modern medical studies have shown that transmission is more difficult than previously thought. Since the 1940s, medical treatments have been available, and the patient no longer needs to be isolated once long-term treatment has begun.

In Jesus' time, however, religious and social taboos dictated the behavior of those with leprosy and other skin diseases. The Law of Moses provided for the examination of skin diseases by the priests, and if leprosy was identified, the person was declared unclean. People with leprosy lived in isolation from the community. They were instructed to rip their clothes and to announce their presence with loud cries when moving in the community. If the sores of leprosy healed, the Law of Moses provided a purification rite that permitted the person to return to the community.

In today's Gospel, the man with leprosy took the initiative, approaching Jesus and asking for healing. In doing so, the leper violated the religious customs of the day by approaching a person who was clean. His request to Jesus can be interpreted as a courageous and daring act. The confidence of the leper in Jesus' ability to heal him is evident in the words of his request. But his words can also be read as a challenge to Jesus, asking just how far Jesus was willing to extend himself in order to heal someone. While healing the man, Jesus touched him, which also violated established social norms. This is an important sign of the depth of Jesus' compassion for the man and an important statement about Jesus' interpretation of the Law of Moses.

Although Jesus touched the leper, he did not break completely with the Law of Moses. He instructed the man not to tell anyone about the cure and told him to present himself to the priests as prescribed by the Law of Moses. The first instruction sounds nearly impossible to honour. Certainly, the man would want to share the good news of his healing, and his quick improvement would require an explanation. The second instruction honours the Law of Moses.

Mark's Gospel tells us that after this healing, it became difficult for Jesus to travel freely. There are several possible explanations for this. There might have been concern about the repercussions of Jesus' breach of social and religious norms. In touching the man with leprosy, Jesus made himself unclean. Mark's narrative, however, leads to the conclusion that Jesus' movement was hampered by his popularity. Despite his instructions, the cured man spread the word about Jesus' healing power. Even when Jesus was in deserted places, people sought him out in search of his healing.

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

You are my refuge, O Lord;
you fill me with the joy
of salvation.

Gospel Acclamation

May the Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes
of our mind,
so that we can see

Wednesday 14th February

ASH WEDNESDAY

**Masses in
St Mary Magdalene's
7am, 10am and 6pm**

Day of fasting and abstinence

*This is a wonderful liturgical season
of growing in love and LENT is a time
of preparation for the Joy of Easter*

AFTERNOON FOR LIFE

Saturday 24th February
12.45pm- 4.20pm

Margaret Akers
Decriminalisation of Abortion
"The wrong choice for Scotland"

Clare McCullough
Founder and Director of the Good Counsel
Network

"A hopeful view of the current abortion
situation"

Emmet Dooley
Director of Education Outreach, SPUC Scotland
"How we can all support a culture
of life"

SPUC Dundee
"What's happening here and how you
can help?"

hosted by
Bishop Stephen Robson

To register, email
mcgraw.clare@gmail.com
Crèche places available.

AROUND PERTH

Mass in

St Mary Magdalene's, Craigie

10am - Sunday

8am - Weekdays

(except Wednesday and Saturday)

7am - Wednesday; 10am - Saturday

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

William Mackle, Mary Carroll,
Jason Ralston, Anthony Martin
and Ralph and Annetta Giulianotti
and all those whose
anniversaries
occur about this time.

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

FEASTDAYS

Wednesday 14th

7am, 10am, 6pm

ASH WEDNESDAY

10am, Saturday 17th
Seven Holy Founders of
the Servite Order

NEXT SUNDAY IS THE FIRST
SUNDAY OF LENT

Collection

Thank you for your generosity -
last Sunday's collection amounted to
£427.46.

Special collection

There will be a special collection
today in aid of the Sick and Retired
Priests Fund.

Italian Association

Tickets are available today for the
Italian Association's Masked Ball on
Shrove Tuesday 13th February, at 7pm
for 7.30pm. Ticket £10 - includes a
three course meal and music. Please
bring your own drink.

Italian classes have recommenced on
Saturdays from 4.15-6.15pm. All wel-
come - from beginners to advanced.

Italian Stations

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

Catholic Education

We welcome representatives of our
Catholic Schools today as they mark
Catholic Education Sunday.

During this time we are asked to re-
flect on how we are serving The Com-
mon Good in our homes, schools and
parishes. This year we have so much to
celebrate in Catholic Education, for it
is the Centenary Year of the Education
Scotland Act of 1918 which brought
Catholic schools into the public provi-
sion of education.

Catholic schools have flourished and
continue to contribute to the education of
our young people and the transformation of
our society.

Justice and Peace

I try to give to the poor people for love
what the rich could get for money. No,
I wouldn't touch a leper for a thousand
pounds; yet I willingly cure him for
the love of God.

Saint Teresa of Kolkata

Parish Census

An update to the parish records
will be made on Sunday 18th
February. All parishioners will be
invited to complete a Census Card
with details of their name and ad-
dress in order that our priests may
have an up-to-date record of those
living in the parish.

A similar census will be conduct-
ed in neighbouring parishes about
the same time. If you know of
someone who is unable to attend
Mass on that date you may take a
Census Card to them and return it
to the priests the following Sunday.

The parish is fully signed up to
the Information Commissioners
Office and acts within the guidance
set out for the Data Protection
Register.

Called to the Priesthood?

Applications are now invited from
those men who feel they might have a
vocation to diocesan priesthood. Just
after Christmas, two seminarians from
our diocese, along with 13 others from
across Scotland began the "Propaedeu-
tic Period" in Salamanca. A third semi-
narian for Dunkeld will hopefully join
them after Easter. This means we now
have six seminarians, one if them, Dea-
con Andrew Marshall, will be ordained
priest by Bishop Stephen at the end of
June.

The Catholic Church in Scotland is
now inviting you to apply for Semi-
nary - please contact Fr Michael Carrie
(Vocations Director) for more details -
01382 539476.

**Please remember
to talk to God when you
come to church,
let God talk to you dur-
ing Mass, then talk to one
another after Mass**

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