



*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

## 3rd Sunday of Advent Year C, 13th December 2015

# Gaudete - Rejoice

This Sunday's Gospel continues last week's focus on John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Christ. Recall that last week's reading described John's appearance in the desert and established his connection with the prophetic tradition of Israel. If we were to read Luke's Gospel continuously, we would learn about John the Baptist challenging the crowds who came to him and calling upon them to show evidence of their repentance. John tells his listeners that they cannot rely on their lineage as Israelites because children of Abraham can be raised up from stones. Repentance, rather, must be observable in one's actions. Here, Luke is continuing to set up two important themes of his Gospel message: the Christian faith is expressed in one's actions, and the call to salvation is extended to everyone, Jews and Gentiles.

In today's Gospel reading, the crowds ask John the Baptist for specifics. What evidence of repentance is required? John replies by naming concrete actions: crowds should share their food and cloaks; tax collectors should be just; soldiers should act fairly. The concern for justice is a hallmark of Luke's Gospel.

### For today's Mass

#### Responsorial Psalm

Sing and shout for joy  
for great in your midst  
is the Holy One of Israel.

#### Gospel Acclamation

The spirit of the Lord  
has been given to me.  
He has sent me to bring  
good news to the poor.



When the crowd begins to wonder if John the Baptist might be the Messiah, John interprets his baptism and makes it clear that his ministry is in preparation for the Messiah. John the Baptist knows his place and role in God's plan of salvation. By encouraging the crowd to act similarly in accordance with their stations in life, John's teaching suggests that each person has a role to play in God's salvation. It is the great mystery of our salvation that God permits and even asks for human cooperation in his divine plans.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word that means "rejoice." This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass, which is also echoed in today's second reading from the Paul's letter to the Philippians. Some people mark this Sunday by lighting a pink candle instead of a purple one on their Advent wreath. It is a reminder that the Advent season is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

## *Advent Penitential Service*

*This is a wonderful way to prepare for Christmas by renewing our commitment to serve the Lord who is always offering forgiveness so that we can grow in love*

*There will be a number of priests to hear individual confessions after a time of Reflection*

*7pm on Monday, 21st December, in St John the Baptist's Church*

## 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 for the repose of  
the souls all  
the faithful departed.

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

## Christmas Masses at St Mary Magdalene's

'MidnightMass' at 9pm

Mass at Dawn - 8am

Christmas Day - 10am

## FEASTDAYS

Monday 14th December

St John of the Cross  
Mass at 8am

## Collections

Thank you for your generosity -  
last Sunday's poor mission collection  
amounted to £403.21.

## Advent Candlelight Prayer and Carol Service in St John's Give Christmas back to Christ

A Spiritual Preparation  
for the Holy Season



led by St John's Church Choir  
and Keep in Touch Group

7.30pm,

Sunday 13th December  
Refreshments to follow  
in the hall afterwards

## Youth group

New members are always welcome -  
why not come along on one of the fol-  
lowing events to learn more about who  
we are and what we do?

Thanks to all who contributed to the  
sale of Craft work and Baking in aid  
of youth group funds. Over £90 was  
raised.

Today the group is going to Ice Skat-  
ing in Edinburgh, leaving after 9am  
Mass. Wednesday 16th will be the  
groups final meeting for the term - and  
a chance to set up the Nativity in the  
church,

On Sunday 20th Decemer we will  
join the diocesan Advent Youth Gather-  
ing in Our Lady of Sorrow RC Church,  
Fintry in Dundee - leaving St John's at  
9.50am. (Cost free).

## School raises funds for Romania Project

St John's Academy pupils are host-  
ing a "Night of Music" fundraiser  
evening for the Budimex Marie Curie  
Children's Hospital and the Recuperare  
Centre.

The event takes place at Our Lady of  
Lourdes Church, in Letham, on Thurs-  
day 17th December at 7pm, to raise  
money to build a new playground for  
the hospital.

The evening will have lots of dif-  
ferent musical acts, a raffle, a short  
presentation discussing the project and  
their time in Romania and plenty of hot  
drinks and cakes throughout!

Tickets are £3.50 for adults and £2  
for children, and will be on sale at the  
end of Mass next week.

They can also be purchased at St  
John's Academy's school office and  
will be available for purchase on the  
night as well.

## Italian Association

Members and friends will be at-  
tending the Annual Christmas Dinner  
Dance at McDiarmid Park - Monday  
14th December - cost £28.

## School Show

Secondary pupils at St John's Acad-  
emy will perform their annual Christ-  
mas Show, on Wednesday 16th Decem-  
ber, at 7pm, in the school hall.

## Toy collection

St John's SSVP are collecting toys  
for the children of needy families here  
in Perth, we are looking for new small  
toys suitable for children between  
2yrs and 11yrs of age. The gifts will be  
wrapped and labelled by children from  
this parish prior to distribution.

A box will be placed in the back of  
the Church during the Masses of 13th  
and 20th December for the collection  
of these presents. God Bless you all for  
your many kindnesses to the poor, who  
are His special gift to us.

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