



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
Rev. Krzysztof Jablonski (01738 636589) - Permanent Deacon

1st Sunday of Advent Year B, 3rd December 2017

Stay Awake

Today we begin the season of Advent, which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. The readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel—Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. With this year's first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary, which focuses our attention on the Gospel of Mark. This week and next week, our readings from Mark's Gospel present two important Advent themes: the Lord's return at the end of time and John the Baptist's preparation for Jesus.

that immediately precedes Mark's account of Jesus' Passion. Having been questioned repeatedly by the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus is now questioned by his disciples—Peter, James, John, and Andrew—who want details about his prediction of the destruction of the Temple. Jesus answers with many warnings about the difficulties that the disciples will face.

Today's passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus' warnings to his disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes.

Today's Gospel is taken from the end of Mark's Gospel, the chapter



Scholars believe that Mark's Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. Mark's audience consisted of Christians who were living in difficult social and political times, times of conflict. They were likely beginning to face persecution as followers of Jesus. In this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus had foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus' warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in his words a way to persevere through suffering.

Today's Gospel reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church's celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark's community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.



The Jesse tree was created to help people link the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading up to Jesus' birth. The tradition of decorating Christmas trees actually predates the arrival of Christianity in western Europe and was adopted by the early Church. In order to associate the custom more clearly with Christianity, people made Jesse trees—Christmas trees with decorations related to the events of Jesus' birth and the prophecies about him in the Old Testament. Many parishes and families make Jesse trees during Advent to remind them of these events as they prepare for Christmas.

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us
and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation

Let us see, O Lord,
your mercy
and show us
your saving help.

Justice and Peace

The seventh commandment forbids acts or enterprises that for any reason - selfish or ideological, commercial, or totalitarian—lead to the enslavement of human beings, to their being bought, sold and exchanged like merchandise, in disregard for their personal dignity. It is a sin against the dignity of persons and their fundamental rights to reduce them by violence to their productive value or to a source of profit.

Catechism of the Catholic Church,
para 2414

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 Johnny Wheeler, Margaret Grigor and Stanislaw Podolak (Poland) 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 6th
St Nicholas

Thursday 7th
St Ambrose

Friday 8th
Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Meditation Evening

Our Lady of Lourdes are holding an Advent Meditation Evening on Thursday 14th December at 7pm. A evening of hymns, prayers and poems on the theme of Hope. All parishioners welcome to come along and also join us for refreshments in the parish rooms afterwards.

We look forward to seeing you.

Collection

Thank you for your generosity - last Sunday's collection amounted to £286.30.

Poor Mission Fund

There will be a second collection this week in aid of the Poor Mission Fund.

Advent

Advent is a time to reflect on the Coming of Christ and to look forwards to his Second Coming at the end of time. It is a period of joyful hope, with days for spiritual preparation and for confession - we all need the Sacrament.

Overwhelmed by Christmas adverts, and the thoughts of what we are going to give our loved ones, how about giving a Mass Bouquet for the living and for the dead.

Coming events

St John's Academy will be leading a Carol Service in St John's Church on 20th December, at 6pm. All families and parishioners are invited to celebrate readings and carols with the pupils and staff of St. John's Academy. Do come along and bring family and friends with you. It is a great way to prepare for Christmas in the spirit of the Lord's presence in our lives.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST'S

Melville Street, Perth, PH1 5PY

Carols with the Choir



7.30pm, Sunday 10th December

in St John the Baptist RC Church

Mince pies, tea and coffee to follow

ALL WELCOME

Italian Association

A few tickets are still available for Pitlochry's production of 'Singing in the Rain' on Thursday 7th December - price, including High Tea - £30 - please call 622661 to book.

The annual Dinner Dance takes place on Tuesday 12th December at McDiarmid Park, 6.30pm, price £30. Tickets available - please add your name to the list at the back of the church.



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.

Dunkeld News

The latest edition of Dunkeld News, the newsletter of the Bishop of Dunkeld, has arrived in Perth. Featuring Deacon Hendry's Papal Award and much more from our schools. Please pick up a copy from the church porch - or view it online www.dunkelddiocese.co.uk

Two Advent Youth Retreats led by Fr Samuel

**Friday 8th
- Saturday 9th December**
12-16 years

**Saturday 9th
- Sunday 10th
December**
17-25 years

Retreats run from 5pm - 5pm

with prayer, reflection, confession, catechesis, games and Mass

at the Diocesan Centre,
24-28 Lawside Road, Dundee, DD3 6XY

Download an expression of interest form at
www.dunkeldyouth.org.uk
and tell Mgr Hendry know you wish to go

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