



Drawing by John R Hume,  
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# St Mary Magdalene's Church

7, Glenearn Road, Perth, PH2 0BD

Tel: 01738 643418

Monsignor Charles Hendry - Parish Priest  
Rev. Krzysztof Jablonski (01738 636589) - Permanent Deacon

## 24th Sunday of Year A, 17th September 2017

### The merciful king

Today's Gospel reading directly follows last week's Gospel in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt—a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses



the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison.

A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

#### For today's Mass

##### Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is  
compassion and love,  
slow to anger  
and rich in mercy.

##### Gospel Acclamation

Speak, Lord,  
your servant is listening:  
you have the message

At the Invitation of Bishop Stephen Robson

### Retreat - Day of Reflection For Grandparents

- All Welcome -

Saturday 23rd September 2017

10am - 3pm

St. Joseph's Retreat Centre

24-28 Lawside Road, Dundee. DD3 6XY

Guest Speaker - Catherine Wiley  
Founder of the Catholic Grandparents Association

Please bring a packed lunch  
Call 01382 225453

### Justice and Peace

*The only path is to renounce violence, to begin anew with dialogue, with the attempt to find peace together, with a new concern for one another, a new willingness to be open to one another.*

Pope Benedict XVI,  
Good Friday, 2011

## AROUND PERTH

### Mass in

**St Mary Magdalene's, Craigue**

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 Sean Gillespie, Teresa Boyle,  
Phil Boyle, Isabella Brodie  
and Margaret Johnston  
and all those whose  
anniversaries occur about this time

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

## FEASTDAYS

**Thursday 21st**

- St Matthew, Apostle

**Saturday 23rd**

- St Pius of Pietracina

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

Zena and Irene are having their Annual Coffee Morning and Raffle on Friday 29th September - from 10.30-12.50pm. All welcome - no admission charge - but please give a donation for the Macmillan Nurses.

## Collection

Thank you for your generosity - last Sunday's collection amounted to £342.10.



## Union of Catholic Mothers

Next Meeting Tuesday 19th September - following the 7pm Mass, guest speaker from Lindsey's Butchers.

## Race Night

Our Lady of Lourdes parish is holding a Race Night in aid of their new Community Hall Fund. The event will take place in the Letham Community Club, Friday 29th September, 7pm for 7.30pm start.

Tickets £5 per person inc buffet. Bar available on night. To book - please phone Fr Colin Perth 626979.

## Nightfever

The Nightfever evenings of adoration and outreach at St Andrew's Cathedral are now in their 3rd year, with the next one scheduled for Saturday 7 October

There will be an open meeting on Sunday 17th September at 3pm in the Cathedral hall, for all who would be interested in hearing a little more about Nightfever.

## Italian Association

The September meeting will take place on Saturday 30th September at 1pm in St John's Church Hall, followed by Holy Mass in Italian in the Church.

## Italian classes

Our regular Italian classes will recommence on Saturday 14th October at 4.15pm in St John's Church Hall - to join the class please contact Perth 622661.

# Diocesan Vocations Mass

**7pm, Thursday  
21st September**

**in St Andrew's  
Cathedral  
Dundee**

## A Day with Mary

led by Rev. Andrew Brookes OP

10am-4pm

**Saturday 28th October**

at

**St Joseph's Retreat Centre**  
24-28 Lawside Road, Dundee, DD3 6XY



**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