

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
Rev. Krzysztof Jablonski (01738 636589) - Permanent Deacon

28th Sunday of Year A, 15th October 2017

Entering the kingdom of heaven

Immediately after criticizing the religious leaders through the parable of the tenants in last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus proceeded to tell another parable, again directed at the religious leaders. We hear this parable in today's Gospel.

In the parable of the wedding feast, Jesus offers an image of the kingdom of heaven using the symbol of a wedding banquet. In today's first reading from the prophet Isaiah and in today's psalm, the Lord's goodness is evident in the symbol of a feast of good food and wine. Jesus' listeners would have been familiar with the image of a wedding feast as a symbol for God's salvation. They would consider themselves to be the invited guests. Keeping this in mind helps us to understand the critique Jesus makes with this parable. The context for this parable is the growing tension between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders in Jerusalem. This has been the case for the past two Sundays and will continue to be true for the next several weeks.

The parable Jesus tells is straightforward. The king dispatches his servants to invite the guests to the wedding feast that he is planning for his son. The listeners would have been surprised to learn that the first



Many are called but few are chosen.

guests refused the invitation. Who would refuse the king's invitation? A second dispatch of servants follows. Again to the listeners' great surprise, some guests ignore the invitation. Some of the invited guests even go so far as to mistreat and kill the servants. The king invokes his retribution against these murderers by destroying them and burning their city.

We might stop here for a moment. Why would some guests kill the servants sent to invite them to the king's wedding feast? It might be possible that the king was a tyrant, evidenced by the destruction of the city of those who refused his invitation. But if we follow this idea, then the allegory seems to be about something other than the kingdom of heaven. It is more likely that the destruction of the city would have been a powerful image corresponding to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70, which would have been an important event for Matthew's audience.

With the invited guests now deemed unworthy to attend the king's wedding feast, the servants are sent to invite whomever they can find. The guests arrive, but it appears that accepting the king's invitation brings certain obligations. The guest who failed to dress in the appropriate wedding attire is cast out of the feast. We are reminded that while many are invited to the kingdom of heaven, not all are able to meet its requirements. God invites us to his feast, giving us his salvation. Yet he asks us to repent for our sins.

Jesus' message in the parable cautions against exclusive beliefs about the kingdom of heaven. The parable also teaches about humility. Those who assume that they are the invited guests may find that they have refused the invitation, and so others are invited in their place. To accept the invitation is also to accept its obligations. God wants our full conversion in complete acceptance of his mercy.

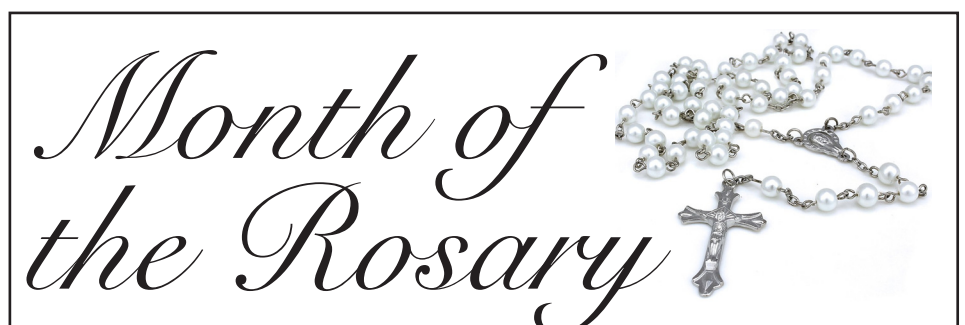
For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

In the Lord's own house
shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

Gospel Acclamation

The Word was made flesh
and lived among us;
to all who did accept him
he gave power
to become children of God.



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 Dennis Kirk,
Charlie Horsburgh, Sandy Armit
and Fr Jean Pierre
and all those whose
anniversaries occur about this time

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

FEASTDAYS THIS WEEK

Monday 16th

- St Margaret Mary Alacoque -

Tuesday 17th

- St Ignatius of Antioch -

Wednesday 18th

St Luke

Thursday 19th

French Martyrs

Saturday 20th

St Pope John Paul II

Collection

Thank you for your generosity -
last Sunday's collection amounted to
£294.85.

Mission Sunday

There will be a second collection
next weekend in aid of the Church's
missionary work.

Fatima Masses

Mass will be celebrated in St Mary
Magdalene's, at 6pm, on the 13th of
each month, from June to November,
in honour of this 100th anniversary
year of the Apparitions of Our Lady at
Fatima.

Italian classes

Our regular Italian classes will re-
commence on Saturday 21st October
at 4.15pm in St John's Church Hall -
to join the class please contact Perth
622661.

Justice and Peace

*When I fed the poor, they called
me a Saint. When I asked why
the poor had no food, they
called me a Communist.*

Archbishop Hélder Câmara

Bingo Tea

in memory of the late John Bruen

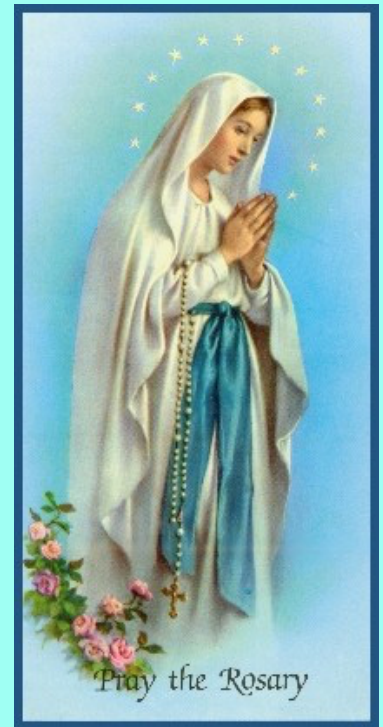
Monday 16th October

7pm for 7.30pm start

Proceeds to

Sr Mary Roe, Uganda Mission

A candlelit Rosary dedicated to Our Lady of Queen of Peace



**St Mary Magdalene's
Church**

**7pm, Monday
30th October**

**Come along to this
short service and pray
to Our Lady for peace
in our troubled world**

Silent Vigil

On Thursday 26th October, from
6-8pm, the Dundee Branch of the So-
ciety for the Protection of Unborn
Children are holding their 14th Annual
Vigil in Dundee City Square. This year
marks the 50th anniversary of the pass-
ing of Abortion Act (1967). If you are
able to show your support, even for just
a part of the 2 hours, please go along
and join in.

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