



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

## 31st Sunday of Year A, 5th November 2017

# A call to service for the glory of God

Today's Gospel continues to elaborate on the tension between Jesus and the scribes and Pharisees. Our Lectionary sequence at this point, however, is not quite a continuous reading of Matthew. In between last week's reading from Matthew and this week's, we find Jesus' question to the Pharisees about the Messiah being "David's son." Having concluded a series of dialogues with the Pharisees and other religious leaders, Jesus now directs his words to the crowds, warning them not to follow the example of the scribes and Pharisees.

The scribes and Pharisees were teachers of the Mosaic Law. They were entrusted with its interpretation and, thus, were influential in determining Jewish practice. In order to appreciate the conflict that is evident in this passage, we must understand that Jesus was basing his teachings on the same laws and traditions available to the Pharisees. Both were interpreting the Law of Moses in order to better adapt it to contemporary Jewish life. The differences between their teachings, therefore, are often highlighted and amplified by Matthew.

This part of Matthew's Gospel reflects aspects of the conflict between

### For today's Mass

#### Responsorial Psalm

Keep my soul in peace  
before you, O Lord.

#### Gospel Acclamation

Speak, Lord,  
your servant is listening:  
you have the message  
of eternal life.



his Christian community and Pharisaic Judaism. Matthew's Church is thought to have included many Jewish Christians who may not have believed that a break with the synagogue was necessary to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus tells the crowd that it is correct to do and observe what the scribes and Pharisees teach; it is their example that is to be avoided, namely, their love of being honoured and exalted. Hence, the Gospel reflects the tension of an active internal debate within the early Church.

Jesus references two aspects of Jewish spiritual life prescribed by the Law of Moses. Phylacteries are

small boxes which contain Scripture verses that are placed on the left forearm and forehead. Tassels refer to the fringes worn on the corners of a person's garments; the tassels help to remind those who wear them to keep the commandments.

The warning Jesus gives against seeking places of honour in the community was directed as much toward the Christian community as the named Jewish leaders. Indeed, it is a warning that resonates with us today. Christian leadership is a call to service for the glory of God; those who would be leaders among us must, like Jesus, be servants of all.

## Justice and Peace

*What we would like to do is change the world--make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves as God intended them to do. And, by fighting for better conditions, by crying out unceasingly for the rights of the workers, the poor, of the destitute, the rights of the worthy and the unworthy poor, in other words--we can, to a certain extent, change the world. We can throw our pebble in the pond and be confident that its ever widening circle will reach around the world.*

Servant of God Dorothy Day  
(Born 8 November 1897)

## 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 Victoria Santucci, Phil Rodgers and May Calder and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

During the month of November Masses will be offered each day for the Holy Souls.

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

## FEASTDAYS

Wednesday 8th

Blessed John Duns Scotus

Thursday 9th

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Friday 10th

St Leo the Great

Saturday 11th

St Martin de Tours

## Catholic Papers

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.

## Collection

Thank you for your generosity - last Sunday's collection amounted to £452.20.

## November lists

Time to prepare your November lists, names of those members of your families and those dear to you who have died, Envelopes are available at the back of the church - please fill one in and hand it to Mgr Hendry.

## Concert

In St Matthew's Church, Tay St, at 7.30pm on Fridays 10th November and 1st December, the Inspiration Orchestra is performing in Perth.

They are a group of 15 people with severe disabilities who come together to form an orchestra and give public concerts. The orchestra accompanies excellent singers and soloists who are not disabled, but help to front the whole show.

For the November 10th concert we have guest solo violinist Shona Rae, and for December 1st concert violin soloist Peter Oates.

The orchestra has struggled to get good numbers to attend their concerts - can you help change that? It's free, and it's wonderful! Please come!

[www.theinspirationorchestra.com](http://www.theinspirationorchestra.com)

## The Good News of Saint Mark

7.30pm-9pm, Wednesdays  
8th and 15th November

*A call to faith and hope*

Two sessions for parishioners  
in the Diocese of Dunkeld

## Preparing for the Year of Mark's Gospel

in the Pastoral Centre,  
Lawside Road, Dundee, DD3 6XY

## Fatima Masses

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

## Italian Association

Italian Classes have recommenced on Saturdays at 4.15pm - all welcome.

## A DIOCESAN ADVENT RETREAT DAY

SATURDAY, 2ND DECEMBER  
DIOCESAN CENTRE

given by

Canon Kevin Golden

*'Come let us go up to the Mountain of the Lord'*

10am-4pm

*Please bring a packed lunch  
- coffee and tea provided*

## Two Advent Youth Retreats

**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](http://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