



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

2nd Sunday of Advent Year B, 10th December 2017

Baptised in the Spirit

Today's Gospel is taken from the beginning of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us.

Mark's description of the appearance of John the Baptist highlights John's continuity with the Jewish prophetic tradition. Mark combines quotations from the Old Testament books of Malachi, Isaiah, and Exo-

odus. Mark's description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah found in Second Kings. The people of Judea and Jerusalem flock to him, listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness; they also come to him to be baptized. Mark's Gospel is clear, however, that John the Baptist's role is only to prepare the way for another who will come, one who is greater than John.

Many scholars believe that the Gospels reflect the tension that likely existed between followers of John the Baptist and disciples of Jesus. Each of the four Evangelists report on John's preaching and baptizing, and they each emphasize the importance of Jesus' baptism by John. The four Gospels also explain that John

was sent to preach in preparation for another. In the Gospel of Luke, the question is raised as to whether John the Baptist was himself the Messiah. Just as in today's Gospel, however, John speaks quite explicitly that the Messiah was to come after him.

In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism, but a preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in service to one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to life as disciples of Jesus.



For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

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

Gospel Acclamation

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see
the salvation of God.

Christmas Mass Times

in St Mary Magdalene's, Glenearn Road, Craigie, Perth

Thursday 21st December
Confessions 6.30-7.30pm



Christmas Vigil
9pm



Christmas Day
8am and 10am

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
Catherine Monaghan,
Johnie Wheeler, Leo Hickey,
and Ralph and Ianetta Guilianotti
and all those whose anniversaries
occur about this time.

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

FEASTDAYS

Monday 11th

St Damasus

Tuesday 12th

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Wednesday 13th

St Lucy

Thursday 14th

St John of the Cross

Collection

Thank you for your generosity -
last Sunday's collection amounted to
£431.50.

Thank you also for your contribution
to the Poor Mission Fund - that collec-
tion amounted to £149.60.

Meditation Evening

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

School Carols in St John's Church

St John's Academy will be leading
a Carol Service in St John's Church
on 20th December, at 6pm. All fami-
lies 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

Advent

Advent is a time to reflect on the
Coming of Christ and to look forward
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 giv-
ing a Mass Bouquet for the living and
for the dead.

PACT Service

Perth Action of Churches Together
(PACT) are holding their Family Carol
Service with Carols, Readings and A
Christmas Message, in Perth's North
Church at 7pm on Friday 15th Decem-
ber. All are welcome.

Italian Association

The annual Dinner Dance takes place
on Tuesday 12th December at McDiarm-
id Park, 6.30pm, price £30. Last few
tickets available - call Perthn 662661.



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.

Justice and Peace

*Where Human Rights are not
respected, defended and promoted,
where violence or fraud is done
to man's inalienable freedoms,
where his personality is ignored
or degraded, where discrimina-
tion, slavery or intolerance prevail,
there true Peace cannot be.*

*Blessed Pope Paul VI,
World Day of Peace 1969*

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