



*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
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3rd Sunday of Advent Year B, 17th December 2017

Rejoice, Rejoice

This Sunday's Gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist. Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and read a selection from the Gospel of John.

The Gospel for today combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. As in Mark's Gospel, the Gospel of John contains no birth narrative. Instead, John's Gospel begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue." This prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness.

Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions

to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine.

The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes the prophet Isaiah. Upon answering the next question, John announces that the savior they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our savior. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.



The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

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

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

My soul glorifies the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

The spirit of the Lord
has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring
good news to the poor.

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

Paul Hughes who died recently
and for Katie and Sheilagh Campbell,
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 Peter Canisius

Saturday 23

St John Kety

Collection

Thank you for your generosity -
last Sunday's collection amounted to
£268.25.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST'S

Melville Street, Perth, PH1 5PY

Readings and Carols

led the pupils and staff
of St John's Academy



6pm, Wednesday 20th December

in St John the Baptist RC Church

ALL WELCOME

Italian Association

Holy Mass in Italian will be celebrated in St John's Church on Saturday 6th January, at 2pm. The celebrant will be Mgr Aldo. Refreshments will be provided in the hall after Mass - parishioners welcome.

Italian classes

Our classes have stopped for the Christmas holiday and will recommence on Saturday 13th January,

"Many thanks to you all for your prayers and good wishes during my recent illness. I continue to make progress, albeit slowly, and I am very grateful for the support of the priests and people of our diocese. I wish all of you a Happy and Holy Christmas."

+Vincent Logan

Bishop Emeritus of Dunkeld

Catholic Papers

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

I would like to ask you all to see a ray of hope as well in the eyes and hearts of refugees and of those who have been forcibly displaced. A hope that is expressed in expectations for the future, in the desire for friendship, in the wish to participate in the host society also through learning the language, access to employment and the education of children... We can and must all nourish this hope!

Pope Francis, 24 May 2013

St John's Academy (Primary) - Nativity Play



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