



*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

4th Sunday of Advent Year B, 24th December 2017

Mary, Full of Grace

This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke's Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflected on John the Baptist's announcement that the Saviour was among us, although not yet recognized. This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.

We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel visited Mary, a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the

child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own Son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary's response to the angel, which is called her fiat, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God.

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Mary, already full of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of



Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able respond with obedience.

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

I will sing for ever
of your love, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

I am the handmaid
of the Lord:
let what you have said
be done to me.

Christmas Mass Times

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

**Sunday 24th
Christmas Vigil
9pm**

**Monday 25th
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

May Hendry, Sarah Baird,

Mary Burke, Paul Hughes,

Gertrude Gala, Ivy Ciantar

and the Santucci family

and all those whose anniversaries

occur about this time.

Eternal rest grant

unto their souls, O Lord.

May they rest in peace. Amen

FEASTDAYS

Tuesday 26th

8am, St Stephen

Wednesday 27th

7am, St John the Evangelist

Thursday 28th

8am, Holy Innocents

Collection

Thank you for your generosity -
last Sunday's collection amounted to
£354.46.

Thank you

Thank you to all who have helped pre-
pare and celebrate our liturgies through
the year and especially throughout the
Advent and Christmas seasons; our
readers, extra-ordinary eucharistic
ministers, altar servers, flower arrang-
ers, cleaners, passkeepers, musicians,
money counters... everyone!

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

*St John's RC Academy is a nursery, pri-
mary and secondary school serving the
Catholic community within Perth and
Kinross Council.*

*As a community of faith and learning,
we strive to live out the values of the gos-
pel. We 'Seek the Good' in ourselves and
one another, and seek the good of others.*

*We thank our parish communities for
the support you give to your school. We
ask you to continue to support us and to
pray that our work leads to all our chil-
dren and young people growing in love
for God, for themselves and for others.*

Headteacher - Mr Seán P Hagney

www.st-johnsacademy.org.uk

@st_johnsacademy



**Mgr Hendry and
Deacon Krzysztof
wish everyone a
Happy and Holy
Christmas
and a Peaceful
New Year**

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.

Italian Association

Holy Mass in Italian will be celebrat-
ed in St John's Church on Saturday 6th
January, at 2pm. The celebrant will be
Mgr Aldo. Refreshments will be pro-
vided in the hall after Mass - parishion-
ers welcome.

Italian classes

Our classes have stopped for the
Christmas holiday and will recom-
mence on Saturday 13th January.

Justice and Peace

*Peace is not the product of
terror or fear. Peace is not the
silence of cemeteries. Peace is
not the silent result of violent
repression. Peace is the gener-
ous, tranquil contribution of
all to the good of all. Peace is
dynamism. Peace is generosity.
It is right and it is duty.*

**Saint Oscar Romero,
Bishop and Martyr**

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