



*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

## The Holy Family, Year B, 31st December 2017

# He remembers his covenant for ever

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. This celebration is assigned to the Sunday within the octave of Christmas. The Gospel for today is taken from the Gospel according to Luke and is part of Luke's Infancy Narrative.

Today's Gospel describes the presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple and shows Joseph and Mary as devout Jews, following the prescriptions of the Law of Moses. The Gospel alludes to several aspects of the Law of Moses: circumcision, the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord, and the purification of a woman after childbirth.

According to the Law of Moses as presented in the Book of Leviticus, a woman was considered ritually unclean during her menstrual period and for a prescribed period of time following the birth of a child. After the birth of a son, a woman was considered ritually unclean for 40 days. After the birth of a daughter, a woman was considered unclean for 80

days. In order to be restored to ritual purity, a Jewish woman performed the appropriate rites of purification and made the prescribed ritual offering.

Today's Gospel notes that Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day after his birth, in accordance with the Mosaic Law. At that time, he was called Jesus, the name he was given by the angel Gabriel. On the 40th day after Jesus' birth, Mary performed the appropriate purification rites and made her offering at the Temple. Although the Law of Moses required an offering of a lamb, those who could not afford a lamb could substitute two turtledoves or two pigeons. In this scene, Luke identifies Joseph and Mary as being poor, and indeed throughout Luke's Gospel, Jesus will show special concern for the poor.

Another Jewish rite referenced in this Gospel is the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord. In remembrance of the feast of Passover, when the firstborn children of the Israelites in Egypt were saved from death, the Law of Moses prescribed that all firstborn males of Israel should be consecrated to the Lord. In this tradition, Mary and Joseph present the infant Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem.

In Jerusalem, Luke reports that Mary and Joseph encounter two devout Jews, Simeon and Anna, who recognize the infant Jesus as the fulfillment of Israel's hope for redemption. In Simeon's words we find a prediction of Mary's witnessing of Jesus' death on the cross. The Canticum of Simeon, also called by its Latin name, Nunc Dimitis, is prayed at night prayer, or compline, during the Liturgy of the Hours.



## NEW YEAR'S DAY

**Day of Prayer  
for  
Justice and Peace**

**10am Mass**

**Following next Sunday's Mass we are delighted to welcome a group of children, directed by Grazyna Milnarczyk, who will play a selection of traditional English and Polish carols on piano and violin and guitar. The concert will be followed by light refreshments and a hot drink. There will be a collection in aid of church funds.**

### For today's Mass

#### Responsorial Psalm

He, the Lord, is our God.  
He remembers  
his covenant for ever.

#### Gospel Acclamation

At various times in the past  
and in various different ways,  
God spoke to our ancestors  
through the prophets;  
but in our own time,  
the last days,  
he has spoken to us  
through his Son.

## 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  
Jim Doogan, Paul Hughes and  
Gerard Surrie  
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 2nd**  
**10am, St Basil the Great**  
**& St Gregory Nazianzen**

**Wednesday 3rd**  
**7am, The Most Holy**  
**Name of Jesus**

**Sunday 7th**  
**10am, Epiphany**

## Collection

Thank you for your generosity -  
last Sunday's collection amounted to  
£356.50.

Your Christmas Day offering was  
£834.59 - thank you for your great  
generosity over Christmas. Mass will be  
said for you all.

**Mgr. Hendry**

## Thank you

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

## CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

*St John's RC Academy is a nursery,  
primary 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 gospel. 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 children and  
young people growing in love for  
God, for themselves and for others.*

Headteacher - Mr Seán P Hagney  
[www.st-johnsacademy.org.uk](http://www.st-johnsacademy.org.uk)  
[@st\\_johnsacademy](mailto:@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 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.

## 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 generous,  
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