



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

3rd Sunday of the Ordinary Time, Year B, 21st January 2018

## Do we recognise the urgency?

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a narrative about Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins by reporting on the preaching of John the Baptist. John is described as the voice in the wilderness sent to prepare the way of the Lord. Immediately after describing the work of John the Baptist, Mark reports on Jesus' baptism and his temptation in the desert. Jesus' public ministry begins after the arrest of John the Baptist. Mark wants his readers to understand the important connection between the end of the ministry of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus' own ministry.

As we learn at the beginning of today's Gospel reading, Jesus preaches the Kingdom of God in continuity with the preaching of John the Baptist. Like John the Baptist, Jesus' pronouncement of the kingdom is a call to repentance. Yet Jesus' preaching is greater than John's. Jesus begins the time of fulfillment; the Kingdom of God is already here. This will be demonstrated again and again, both in Jesus' words and in the actions that follow. Jesus' healings and forgiveness of sins are signs of the Kingdom of God that he announces in his teaching.

### For today's Mass

#### Responsorial Psalm

Lord,  
make me know your ways.

#### Gospel Acclamation

The kingdom of God  
is close at hand;  
believe the Good News.



In contrast to last week's Gospel, in Mark's Gospel Jesus takes the initiative in calling his first disciples. As mentioned last week, it was more typical of first-century rabbinical schools for students to seek out rabbis, asking to be their disciples. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus breaks with this tradition and invites his disciples to learn from him. Jesus is said to have first called four fishermen—Simon, Andrew, James, and John. Simon and Andrew are brothers. Jesus promises that he will make them "fishers of men." James and John are also brothers. Mark does not report Jesus' words of invitation to them, but he does report that they left their fishing immediately; their father, Zebedee, was left behind in the boat.

Mark's Gospel is told with a great sense of urgency and immediacy. Jesus is a person of action, and events occur in rapid succession. We see this in today's Gospel. Time is of the essence; the

fishermen immediately put aside their livelihood to become Jesus' disciples. The Kingdom of God is here and now. The time of fulfillment is at hand. How might our lives be different if we more fully shared this sense of the immediacy of God's kingdom?

### Retreat for Young Adults (aged 18-35)

Friday 9th - Sunday 11th February

### St Mary's Retreat and Spirituality Centre

St Mary's Monastery, Kinnoull, Perth

Cost £110

Led by Fr Peter Morris CSsR

*The aim of the retreat is to help the participants to reflect on their own calling as disciples of Jesus*

[info@kinnoullmonastery.co.uk](mailto:info@kinnoullmonastery.co.uk) to book a place

## 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  
Dennis Kirk, Bill Fyall  
and Bishop Ian Murray  
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 22nd**  
8am, St Vincent

**Wednesday 24th**  
7am, St Francis de Sales

**Thursday 25th**  
8am, Conversion of St Paul

**Friday 26th**  
8am, Ss Timothy & Titus

**10am, Saturday 27th**  
St Angela Merci

## Collection

Thank you for your generosity -  
last Sunday's collection amounted to  
£262.24.

## Special collection

There will be a special collection  
next Sunday (28th) in aid of Justice and  
Peace and the African Missions.

## Celebrating Catholic Education Week

Scottish Catholic Education Week  
begins on Sunday, 28 January 2018. The theme for Education Sunday is "Catholic Schools: Serving The Common Good". Through the mission and aims of our schools, our Catholic school challenges us to stop thinking about ourselves all of the time and to put others first. We are taught to do as Jesus asked and "love our neighbour as ourselves". In our classrooms, through our charity work, and during our school prayers and liturgies, we are developing into young adults who are discovering our vocation and learning what it means to be at the service of others.

## Justice and Peace

*We wish to remember. But we  
wish to remember for a purpose,  
namely to ensure that never  
again will evil prevail, as it did  
for the millions of innocent vic-  
tims of Nazism. How could man  
have such utter contempt for  
man? Because he had reached  
the point of contempt for God.  
Only a Godless ideology could  
plan and carry out the extermin-  
ation of a whole people.*

**Pope Saint John Paul II,  
Speech at Yad Vashem, 2000**

## Bishop Robson's Desert Island Discs

At 7pm, Thursday 8th February, Bishop Robson will be the guest at Our Lady of Lourdes, Letham, where he is invited to share the soundtracks of his life - eight pieces of music, and book and a single luxury item that he might wish to have in the event of becoming stranded on a desert island.

To reserve a ticket, cost only £5, please call Fr Colin Golden (626979). Proceeds to the Community Hall Fund.

## Romania Burns Night

St John's Academy continue to raise funds in support of their the Romania Mercy Project.

On Friday 26th January they are holding a traditional Burns Night in the Church Hall - starting at 7.30pm. Come along, eat haggis and ceilidh. BYOB - tickets £10 - from the school.

## Night Fever

On Saturday 3rd February, the next Nightfever, a series of outreach evenings, will take place at St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee.

Starting with the 6pm Mass, the evening continues with Adoration and Confession, with the church doors open until late in the evening and an invitation to passers by to come inside and spend a few moments praying for peace in the world.

## Italian classes

Classes have recommenced on Saturdays from 4.15-6.15pm. All welcome - from beginners to advanced.

## Italian Association

The next meeting of the Italian Association will be on Saturday 27th January, at 1pm, in St John's Church Hall, followed by Holy Mass in Italian at 2pm in the church. Looking ahead - please note - Shrove Tuesday is 13th February.

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*