



*Drawing by John R Hume,  
courtesy of Scotland's Churches Trust*

# St Mary Magdalene's Church

7, Glenearn Road, Perth, PH2 0BD

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Monsignor Charles Hendry - Parish Priest  
Rev. Krzysztof Jablonski (01738 636589) - Permanent Deacon

## 1st Sunday of Lent, Year B, 18th February 2018

# Struggle to resist temptation

On the first Sunday of Lent, the Gospel reading in each Lectionary cycle is about Jesus' temptation in the desert. This event in the life of Jesus is reported in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—but it is not found in John's Gospel. This year we read Mark's account of this event.

Compared to the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, the details throughout Mark's narrative are sparse. This is evident in Mark's account of Jesus' temptation in the desert. Mark tells us only that Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and that for 40 days he was tempted by Satan.

The Gospels of Matthew and Luke explain that Jesus fasted while in the desert, that Satan presented him with three temptations, and that Jesus refused each one, quoting Scripture. Only the Gospels of Matthew and Mark report that angels ministered to Jesus at the end of his time in the desert.

In each of the Synoptic Gospels, the temptation of Jesus follows his baptism by John the Baptist. In Mark's Gospel, we are told that Jesus went into the desert immediately after his baptism, led by the Spirit.

### For today's Mass

#### Responsorial Psalm

Your ways, Lord,  
are faithfulness and love  
for those who keep your covenant.

#### Gospel Acclamation

Man does not live on bread alone  
but on every word

Jesus' public ministry in Galilee begins after his temptation in the desert. Mark's Gospel makes a connection between the arrest of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Jesus' preaching about the Kingdom of God is in continuity with the preaching of John the Baptist, but it is also something new. As Jesus announces it, the Kingdom of God is beginning; the time of the fulfillment of God's promises is here.

The fact that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert is significant. This recalls the 40 years that the Israelites wandered in the desert after being led from slavery in Egypt.

The prophet Elijah also journeyed in the desert for 40 days and nights, making his way to Horeb, the mountain of God, where he was also attended to by an angel of the Lord. Remembering the significance of these events, we also set aside 40 days for the season of Lent.

In Mark's Gospel, the desert marks beginning of Jesus' battle with Satan; the ultimate test will be in Jesus' final hours on the cross. In a similar way, our Lenten observances are only a beginning, a preparation for and a reinforcement of our ongoing struggle to resist the temptations we face in our lives. During Lent, we are led by the Holy Spirit to remember the vows of Baptism in which we promised to reject sin and to follow Jesus.

Just as Jesus was ministered to by the angels, God also supports us in our struggle against sin and temptation. We succeed because Jesus conquered sin once and for all in his saving death on the cross.



### AFTERNOON FOR LIFE

Saturday 24th February  
12.45pm- 4.20pm

**Margaret Akers**  
Decriminalisation of Abortion  
"The wrong choice for Scotland"

**Clare McCullough**  
Founder and Director of the Good Counsel  
Network

"A hopeful view of the current  
abortion situation"

**Emmet Dooley**  
Director of Education Outreach, SPUC Scotland

"How we can all support  
a culture of life"

**SPUC Dundee**  
"What's happening here  
and how you can help?"

hosted by Bishop Stephen Robson

To register, email  
mcgraw.clare@gmail.com  
Crèche places available

## 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  
Luigi Pizzoferro,  
and Giuseppina Carena,  
and all those whose  
anniversaries  
occur about this time.

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

## FEASTDAYS

**Wednesday 21st  
St Peter Damien**

**Thursday 22nd February  
St Peter's Chair**

**Friday 23rd  
St Polycarp**

## Collection

Thank you for your generosity - last Sunday's collection amounted to £320 and the special collection, for the Sick & Retired Priest Fund, raised £167.17.

## Stations of the Cross

During Lent, Stations of the Cross will take place in St Mary Magdalene's at 3pm on Sundays.

## Italian Association

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

Stations of the Cross will take place in St John's on Saturdays at 2pm, in Italian.

Next meeting will be on Saturday 24th February at 1pm, followed by Holy Mass at 2pm.

## Concert

7pm, Thursday 8th March in Our Lady's - Michael Ellacott entertains - in aid of the Struan Road Community Hall Funds.

## Parish Census

A update to the parish records will be made today, Sunday 18th February. All parishioners will be invited to complete a Census Card with details of their name and address in order that our priests may have an up-to-date record of those living in the parish.

A similar census will be conducted in neighbouring parishes about this time. If you know of someone who is unable to attend Mass today you may take a Census Card to them and return it to the priests the following Sunday.

The parish is fully signed up to the Information Commissioners Office and acts within the guidance set out for the Data Protection Register.

Thank you for your support.

## Justice and Peace

God's mercy transforms human hearts; it enables us, through the experience of a faithful love, to become merciful in turn. In an ever new miracle, divine mercy shines forth in our lives, inspiring each of us to love our neighbour and to devote ourselves to what the Church's tradition calls the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

**Pope Francis, Message for Lent**

10.15am-3.30pm, Saturday 3 March 2018

## Preparing for the Easter Triduum

A day conference and celebration as Holy Week approaches, to be held at the Diocesan Centre, Lawside Road, Dundee, DD3 6XY

**Keynote address by Fr Steven Mulholland**

This day will be of particular benefit to readers, cantors, musicians, servers and all involved in the liturgies of the Easter Triduum.

To register please call 01382 225453  
kevinjamesgolden@hotmail.com

Participants are asked to bring a packed lunch

**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