



*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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Palm Sunday, Year B, 25th March 2018

The Son of God

This Sunday, called Palm or Passion Sunday, is the first day of Holy Week. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday are called the Triduum—three days that are the highlight of the Church year. There are two Gospels proclaimed at today's Mass. The first Gospel, proclaimed before the procession with palms, tells of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. Riding on a borrowed colt, Jesus was hailed by the crowds as they blessed God and shouted "Hosanna!" This event is reported in each of the four Gospels.

At the Liturgy of the Word on Palm Sunday, the events of Jesus' passion are proclaimed in their entirety. In Lectionary Cycle B, we read the passion of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Mark. We will hear these events proclaimed again when we celebrate the Triduum later in the week. On Good Friday, we will read the passion of Jesus from the Gospel of John.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus' passion and death are presented as the conse-

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

My God, my God,
why have you forsaken me?

Gospel Acclamation

Christ was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all names.

quence of the tension between the Jewish authorities and Jesus that had been building throughout his public ministry. This tension reached its breaking point when Jesus drove the merchants and moneychangers from the Temple. After this event, the chief priests and scribes began seeking a way to put Jesus to death, and yet, this is only the surface explanation for his death.

When Jesus was arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin—the council of Jewish priests, scribes, and elders—he was charged with blasphemy, citing his threat to the Temple. When he was brought before Pilate, however, the religious authorities presented his crime as a political one, charging that Jesus claimed to be king of the Jews. In continuity with a theme of Mark's Gospel, the messianic claim of Jesus is widely misunderstood.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus' disciples are rarely models of faith and do little to invoke confidence in their capacity to continue his ministry after his death. They fare no better in Mark's narrative of Jesus' passion and death. At the Last Supper, the disciples insisted that none among them would betray Jesus. When Jesus predicted that their faith would be shaken in the events ahead, Peter and the other disciples protested vehemently. Yet in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus returned three times to find them sleeping. Jesus prayed in agony over his impending fate while his disciples slumbered through the night. Just as Jesus predicted, Peter denied Jesus, and the disciples were absent during Jesus' passion and death. Only the women who had been followers of Jesus in Galilee are said to have been

present at the Crucifixion, but they remained at a distance.

Throughout this Gospel, Mark challenges the reader to consider the claim with which the Gospel begins: Jesus is the Son of God. When we read Mark's account of the passion, we begin to comprehend the deeper theological statement being made about Jesus' death. In Mark's telling of the passion narrative, Jesus understood his death to have been preordained, and he accepted this death in obedience to God's will. Jewish Scripture is quoted only once, but there are several references to the fulfillment of the Scriptures. Jesus understood his anointing in Bethany as an anticipation of his burial, and he announced that this story would be told together with the Gospel throughout the world. Jesus predicted his betrayal by Judas as well as Peter's denial. At his arrest, Jesus acknowledged that the preordained time had arrived. Jesus was both confident and silent before his accusers. After he was sentenced to death, Jesus did not speak again until his final cry from the cross. The bystanders misunderstood and believed that he was calling for Elijah. The Roman centurion, however, affirmed what Mark has presented throughout this Gospel: Jesus is the Son of God. Nowhere was this revealed more fully than in his death on the cross.

During Holy Week, we prayerfully remember the events of Jesus' passion and death. As we meditate on the cross, we ask again and anew what it means to make the statement of faith that Jesus, in his obedient suffering and dying, revealed himself to us as God's 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 David Walker,
Susan Horsburgh and
Maureen Morgan
and all those whose
anniversaries
occur about this time.

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

L'Arche Seed group meeting

Wednesday 16th May

3.15pm- 7.30pm

St Matthew's Church,
Tay Street, Perth

*If you'd like to find out more
details please speak to Mgr Hendry*

Collection

Thank you for your generosity -
last Sunday's collection amounted to
£320.90.

Stations of the Cross

Today, Stations of the Cross will take
place in St Mary Magdalene's on the
Sundays of Lent, immediately follow-
ing Sunday Mass.

Italian Association

Bingo Tea in aid of Mukuru Street
Children, Mary's Meals and club
funds Tuesday 27th May, eyes down at
7.30pm, St John's Church Hall. Tick-
ets £1 from members.

Italian classes continue after Easter
on Saturdays from 4.15-6.15pm.

Good Friday Walk



We begin Stations of the Cross in
St John's, after Morning Prayer -
approximately 10.15am; continu-
ing to the Monastery and then
over to St Mary Magdalene's,
finishing around 12 noon with light
refreshments

Please come and join us

Holy Week

Monday 26th March

8am, Mass

Tuesday 27th March

8am, Mass

Wednesday 28th March

7am, Mass

7pm, Mass of Christm

at St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee

Thursday 29th March

7pm, Mass of Our Lord's Last Supper

*followed by prayer at the
Altar of Repose until 9pm*

Good Friday 30th March
Day of Fasting and Abstinence

3pm, Solemn Liturgy

7pm, Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday 31st March

8.30pm, Easter Vigil

Easter Day 1st April

10am, Mass

THEN - EASTER WEEK SERVICES AS NORMAL

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