



*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 Easter, 22nd April 2018

## Good Shepherd Sunday

The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the three lectionary cycles, our Gospel is taken from the 10th chapter of the Gospel of John. In Cycle B, we hear the middle verses of this chapter. Unless we consider this chapter in the greater context of John's Gospel, we will miss the radical nature of the statement Jesus makes when he declares himself to be the Good Shepherd.

This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by the Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the leadership of the Pharisees and the other Jewish leaders. The Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angry that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus (see John 10:31,39). This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death.

In the portion of the chapter that we

### For today's Mass

#### Responsorial Psalm

The stone  
which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.

#### Gospel Acclamation

The good shepherd  
is one who lays down his life  
for his sheep.

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hear proclaimed today, Jesus describes his relationship with his followers as similar to the relationship between a good shepherd and his sheep. As a good shepherd will risk and lay down his life in order to protect his sheep, Jesus willingly sacrifices himself for the sake of his sheep. Jesus contrasts the actions of the good shepherd with the actions of the hired shepherd who abandons the sheep in the face of danger. In the verses following Jesus' teaching, we learn that the Pharisees and the other religious leaders understand that Jesus is referring to them when he describes the hired shepherds.

The concern of a good shepherd for his sheep is part of the shepherd's job. Jesus says, however, that the actions of the good shepherd are based upon the relationship that develops between the shepherd and the sheep. This is at the heart of the difference between the good shepherd and the hired shepherd. The good shepherd knows the sheep

and therefore acts out of love. For the Good Shepherd, this is never simply part of a job; this love-in-action is integral to his identity.

As with so much of John's Gospel, one hears in this passage John's particular focus on Christology. As the sheep are known by the Good Shepherd, the Father knows Jesus and Jesus knows the Father. There is an essential unity between the Father and the Son. The freedom with which Jesus acts when he lays down his life is rooted in the unity that he shares with his Father.

In this context, Jesus also refers to others with whom he shares a relationship. By this reference, John probably understands the eventual inclusion of the Gentiles in the Christian community. Our modern ears hear this as a reference to Christian unity. The work of ecumenism is to restore unity among all Christians so that we form one flock under one shepherd, as God desires.

## 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,

5pm (Polish) & 6.30pm

## PRAYERS

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Rose Mackle and the McDonald 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 THIS WEEK

**Wednesday 25th April**

**St Mark**

## Italian Association

The next meeting of the Italian Association will take place on Saturday 28th April, at 1pm, followed by Holy Mass in Italian in the church at 2pm.

Italian classes continue from Saturday 5th May from 4.15-6.15pm.

## Collection

Thank you for your generosity - Easter Sunday's collection amounted to £276.10. Collection Envelopes are available for the new financial year - and if you use Gift Aid this is even better! Thank you to all who use the scheme already.

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Now is the perfect time to convert your regular giving to the Church to Gift Aid. In this way the tax you have already paid on your donation is kindly returned to the Church by HMRC.

## Day of Prayer for Vocations

There will be a Holy Hour for Vocations to the Priesthood in St Andrew's Cathedral today - Sunday 22nd April, at 4pm. All welcome.

## Pastoral letter

Today's Pastoral Letter from Bishop Stephen is addressed to all, but especially to the young and those who have care of the young.

It also concerns the new arrangements for Confirmation and some thought on our need to reach our young Catholics more effectively.

A copy is available on the parish website - [www.st-marymagdalene-perth.org.uk/good-shepherd/](http://www.st-marymagdalene-perth.org.uk/good-shepherd/)

## Justice and Peace

Evangelisers thus take on the 'smell of the sheep' and the sheep are willing to hear their voice.

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, para 24

## Rosary on the Coast



Following the model of Poland and Ireland, the "Rosary of the Coast" is being organized in Scotland to deepen and renew the faith of all pilgrims to build together the Church of Christ on faith, morals, respect for life and the teaching of the Church. Connecting with each other in a common nationwide prayer through Mary Mother, Queen of the Holy Rosary. We will be united in praying the rosary on April 29 (Sunday) at 3pm.

There will be a Parish Rosary Service in St Mary Magdalene's on April 29th, at 3pm. We invite you to participate!



## Prayer for Families and for Peace

There will be a Celebration of Mary, Mother and Queen of Families at 2.30pm, May 13th 2018 St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee. This comes in answer to our Lady's request at Fatima and Bishop Stephen will lead the diocese in praying the Rosary and in Benediction. "There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary" *Sr Lucia (Fatima)*

"The family that prays together stays together" *Proverbs 22:6*

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