



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

St Mary Magdalene's Church

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6th Sunday of Easter, 6th May 2018

The greatest commandment is to love one another

Today's Gospel follows immediately after the Gospel proclaimed last week, in which Jesus taught that he was the vine and that his disciples were the branches. In the example of the vine and the branches, we learned that our union with Jesus will lead to fruitful service. Today's reading extends this teaching to describe the kind of service that Christians are called upon to offer to others.

When John wrote this Gospel, his community was influenced by a set of religious beliefs called Gnosticism. It appears that one of John's intentions was to distinguish Christian belief from the beliefs held by the Gnostics. Evidence of this can be found in today's Gospel.

One of the tenets of Gnostic teaching was the importance of knowledge, or gnosis, as the determining aspect of faith. We read today's Gospel as a

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord has shown
his salvation to the nations.

Gospel Acclamation

Jesus said:

'If anyone loves me
he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him.

response to this teaching. In John's Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm that he is known by the Father and that his disciples will know the Father by knowing Jesus. In this passage, however, Jesus reminds his disciples that this knowledge is to be expressed in love. Those who know Jesus well—and Jesus says that his disciples do know him—will love one another. Knowledge leads to love, which leads to action. John reminds his community that Jesus taught that love is the sign of a true disciple and, thus, a true Christian. Even more, a true disciple shows a particular kind of love, sacrificial love.

In the Greek, there are two words for love that are used in this passage. The first is *agape*. The second is *philia*. The first word is most often used to describe love for other persons and for God. It is understood as the highest and most perfect kind of love. The second word is used to describe the affection of friendship. In this context, John appears to use these words as synonyms. The root of the Greek word for friend comes from this second term for love, *philia*. By using this word, Jesus transforms the terms of his relationship with his disciples and redefines for them their relationship with God. In the Hebrew Scriptures, faith in God made one a servant of God.

Here Jesus teaches that his relationship to his disciples is based on friendship, not servitude.

Another aspect of Gnostic belief taught that a believer was an elect person, chosen and set apart from the

love
each other
as I have
loved you.
John 15:12

world. John reminds his community that Jesus also taught that a disciple is one who had been chosen—one who had been chosen by Jesus. To be chosen by Jesus, however, is not to be set apart from the world. Instead, to be chosen by Jesus is to be sent to serve the world as he did. The disciples of Jesus were chosen and were sent into the world to bear fruit by serving others, by sacrificing for others, in love.

This reading, like last week's, is part of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. In the context of John's Gospel, these words are spoken before Jesus' Crucifixion. We read his instruction to the disciples in light of his death and Resurrection. We know that Jesus himself gives us the greatest example of the kind of love and service that he teaches to his disciples. He has, in fact, laid down his life for his friends, for his disciples, and for us. Through his death and Resurrection, we have received the grace to love others as Jesus has commanded.

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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 soul of
Murray Christie
and all those whose
anniversaries
occur about this time.

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

ASCENSION DAY

Thursday
3th May
a Holy Day
of Obligation

Masses
8am, 10am and 6pm

Collection

Thank you for your generosity -
Easter Sunday's collection amounted
to £330.80. 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.



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.

World Day of Communications

There will be a second collection
next Sunday for the World Day of
Communications.

ITALIAN ASSOCIATION

Bingo Tea

*in aid of Mukuru Street Children,
Mary's Meals and club funds*

Monday 21st May

St John's Church Hall.

Eyes down at 7.30pm,

Tickets £1 from members

*Tickets purchased for last month's
cancelled Bingo are still valid*

Justice and Peace

The motivating concern for the poor -
who are, in the very meaningful term,
"the Lord's poor" must be translated at
all levels into concrete actions, until it
decisively attains a series of necessary
reforms. ... But those demanded by the
situation of international imbalance...
must not be forgotten.

Pope Saint John Paul II, *Sollicitudo rei*

Italian Association

The next meeting of the Italian As-
sociation takes place on Saturday 26th
May, at 1pm, followed by Holy Mass
in Italian at 1pm.

Following Mass, parishioners are in-
vited to join the May Procession and
the Crowning of the Statue of Our
Lady in the church garden which starts
at 3pm. Rosary in Italian will be re-
cited during May at 2pm on Saturdays.

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

Pentecost Novena

A novena is nine days of prayer that
usually encourages us to pray for a
particular intention as we prepare for
a feast day. Praying for an intention,
particularly praying for other people,
is known as the prayer of intercession.
It is a form of prayer that takes us be-
yond ourselves as we ask our loving
Father to bless someone else.

'We can say that God's heart is
touched by our intercession, yet in re-
ality he is always there first. What our
intercession achieves is that his power,
his love and his faithfulness are shown
ever more clearly in the midst of the
people.' *Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium*

Ordination Mass

St John's are collecting names for
a bus to the ordination of Andrew
Marshall in St Andrew's Cathedral,
Dundee, which will take place at 7pm
on Thursday 28th June.

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 Fati-
ma 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