



*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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17th Sunday of Ordinary Time, 29th July 2018

Transformed by the eucharist

Through most of Lectionary Cycle B, our Sunday Gospel readings are taken from the Gospel of Mark. Over the past two Sundays, we heard how Jesus sent his disciples to share in his mission. If we were to continue reading Mark's Gospel, we would next hear his report of how Jesus feeds the crowds in the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. Our Lectionary, however, leaves Mark's Gospel for the next several weeks and instead presents this event from the Gospel of John. In John's Gospel, Jesus' multiplication of the loaves and the fishes is presented as a sign of his authority and divinity. Jesus interprets the meaning and significance of this miracle as a sharing of his Body and Blood. This chapter is sometimes called the "Bread of Life Discourse."

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

You open wide your hand,
O Lord,
and grant our desires.

Gospel Acclamation

Your words are spirit, Lord
and they are life:
you have the message
of eternal life.

In many important ways, John's Gospel uses the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes to teach about the Eucharist.

Like the Last Supper, this miracle is said to have occurred near the time of the Jewish feast of Passover. (In John's Gospel three Passovers are identified.) Jesus' language is similar to the language he used at the Last Supper as reported in the Synoptic Gospels. John's description of this event also anticipates the Messianic banquet of heaven, as the crowd reclines and all hungers are satisfied with abundance. This connection is further amplified by the response of the crowd, who wants to make Jesus a king. John is teaching us that each time we celebrate the Eucharist, we are anticipating the eternal banquet of heaven.

Recall that John's Gospel tells the story of the Last Supper differently than the Synoptic Gospels. Instead of describing the meal and Jesus' actions with the bread and cup, John describes how Jesus washed his disciples' feet. We hear this Gospel when we remember the Last Supper on Holy Thursday. This recollection of Jesus' action at the Last Supper complements the institution narrative of the Synoptic Gospels and Paul's Letters that we hear repeated at each Mass.

In both stories about the Eucha-

rist—the washing of the disciples' feet and the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes—the Gospel of John teaches us that the Eucharist is an action.

Our word Eucharist is taken from the Greek language and describes an action: "to give thanks." In the Eucharist we are fed by Jesus himself, and we are sent to serve others.

John's Gospel notes the detail that the bread blessed and shared with the crowd are barley loaves. This is the food of the poor. It reminds us that God feeds and nourishes us, fulfilling our physical needs as well as our spiritual ones. In the Eucharist, we are sent to serve the poorest among us.

The story of the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes recalls a particular aspect of the Mass. In this miracle, Jesus transforms a young boy's offering of five barley loaves and two fish. In the offertory at Mass, we present the fruits of our labors, represented by bread and wine.

These gifts, given to us first by God as grain and fruit, are returned to God in our offering of thanksgiving. God in turn transforms our gifts, making this bread and wine the very Body and Blood of Jesus. We also offer ourselves in this exchange, and we, too, are transformed by the Eucharist.

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 Mena Zammitt and for of 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

Monday 30th

St Peter Chrysologus

Tuesday 31st

St Ignatius of Loyola

Wednesday 1st August

St Alphonsus of Liguori

Thursday 2nd August

St Eusebius of Vercelli

Saturday 3rd August

St John Vianney

Collections

Thank you for your generous support - last week's collection amounted to £202.

Second collection

There will be a second collection next Sunday for the Bishop's Mensal Fund.

First Friday Mass

In addition to the usual weekday Masses this week there will be an evening Mass - for the First Friday of the Month - at 6.30pm on Friday 2nd August.

Petros Chrysologos (meaning Peter the "golden-worded") (c. 380 - c. 450) was Bishop of Ravenna from about 433 until his death. He is known as the "Doctor of Homilies" for the concise but theologically rich reflections he delivered during his time as the Bishop of Ravenna.
Feastday Monday 30th July

Italian Association theatre trip

For those members who have signed up to see Chicago at Pitlochry Festival Theatre on Monday 6th August - our coach will leave St John's RC Church at 4.30pm, to allow us to have High Tea at Bankfoot, "lungo il percorso".

L'Arche in Perth

On Wednesday 15th August, L'Arche Community are holding another of their Open meetings, exploring the possibility of setting up a L'Arche Community here in Perth. This is being held in St Matthew's Church from 5.15pm - 7.30pm - all welcome.

Justice and Peace

An authentic faith – which is never “Today Christ tells us it isn't enough to distribute bread to those who haven't got any. The essential thing is to work toward the creation of a more just world, in which there will no longer be a minority owning too much, among such multitudes of hungry people.”

Archbishop Hélder Câmara

Thanks

Thanks to everyone who joined us for the celebration of our patronal feast last Sunday - and to all who organised the strawberries and cream after Mass.

Catholic Papers

The Scottish Catholic Observer, Catholic Herald, Catholic Times etc are available in the church porch - please take copies and share them with the wider community.

Silver Jubilee

Congratulations to Fr Tobias Okoro, parish priest at St Fergus' Forfar and St Anthony's Kirriemuir, who celebrates the 25th Anniversary of his priestly ordination today. Please keep him in your prayers.

Romania Project Meal

A Spanish-Mexican themed meal in aid of St John's Academy's Romania Mercy Project will be held at 7.30pm, Saturday 25th August in St John's Church Hall - price £7 a ticket.

An additional donation can be made at the end of the evening if you think that the meal was worth even more! Please bring your own drink - glasses will be provided.

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