



*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 (07851 735590) - Permanent Deacon

18th Sunday of Ordinary Time, 5th August 2018

I am the Bread of Life

This Sunday we continue to read from the sixth chapter of John's Gospel, but not continuously. Our Lectionary omits John's report of Jesus' walking on water. This event is reported much less dramatically in John's Gospel than in the Synoptic Gospels. After the feeding of the multitudes, the disciples leave in a boat and Jesus follows them. The disciples are said to be terrified by what they see. Jesus reassures them and rejoins them. In today's Gospel, we learn that the crowd has noticed the departure of Jesus and his disciples and so seeks them out in Capernaum. In the dialogue that follows between Jesus and the crowds, Jesus unfolds for us the gift of himself that he gives in the Eucharist.

In today's Gospel, there are four exchanges between Jesus and the crowd. In the first, the crowd, having followed Jesus to Capernaum, asks a very matter of fact question: "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord gave them
bread from heaven.

Gospel Acclamation

I am the Way,
the Truth and the Life,
says the Lord;
no one can come to the Father
except through me.

Jesus replies by naming their motivation in pursuing him. They have been fed. Jesus acknowledges this, yet challenges them to see beyond the fulfillment of their material needs. The crowds have followed Jesus because they have been fed. They ought to be seeking out Jesus because he can give them eternal life.

As the second dialogue begins, it seems that the crowd might be on their way to accepting Jesus and his mission. They ask: "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?" Jesus replies that they must have faith in the one sent from God. But in the third dialogue, the crowd reveals their inability to see Jesus' true identity. They ask Jesus for a sign so that they might know that Jesus is from God. How strange this sounds since Jesus has just fed more than 5000 people. What more is expected?

But the crowd cannot see beyond the surface of the sign. They show this in their interpretation of the sign that came from Moses. In their description, they identify Jesus with Moses, as if to say, as Moses gave the people manna in the desert, give us a sign so that we will know that you are from God. They are looking to identify a prophet without realizing that God is standing before them. Jesus corrects their misinterpretation, saying that the manna received by their ancestors came



from God. As God fulfilled their ancestors' needs in the desert, so God has provided them with food for eternal life. In the bread that they have received from Jesus, they have received physical nourishment and also spiritual nourishment. Jesus wants the crowd to see beyond the surface to the One who provides true nourishment.

The conclusion of the dialogue reveals the crowd's blindness. They ask for what Jesus has just told them they have found: "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus answers plainly that he himself is the Bread of Life they seek. Jesus himself is the Bread of Life who will satisfy every hunger and thirst. This is the first of several such statements found in John's Gospel. We understand these better when we remember that God revealed his name to the people of Israel as "I am," as Yahweh. Jesus is now claiming this name for himself. In the weeks ahead, we will see the offense that this gives to the people.

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 all those whose
anniversaries occur
about this time.

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

FEASTDAYS

Monday 6th August
Transfiguration of Our Lord

Wednesday 8th August
St Dominic

Thursday 9th July
St Teresa Benedicta

Friday 10th July
St Laurence

Saturday 11th July
St Clare

Collection

Thank you for your generosity -
last Sunday's collection amounted to
£360.60.

Second Collection

There will be a second collection
at Mass today in aid of the Bishop's
Mensal Fund.

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.

Italian classes

Please note that weekly Italian classes
will resume on Saturday 18th August
at 4.15pm in the Church Hall - all welcome
- beginners to native speakers.



Weapons of mass destruction,
particularly nuclear weapons,
create nothing but a false sense
of security."

Pope Francis
Address to Participants
'Prospects for a World Free
of Nuclear Weapons
and for Integral Disarmament'
10 November 2017

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.

BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF SCOTLAND

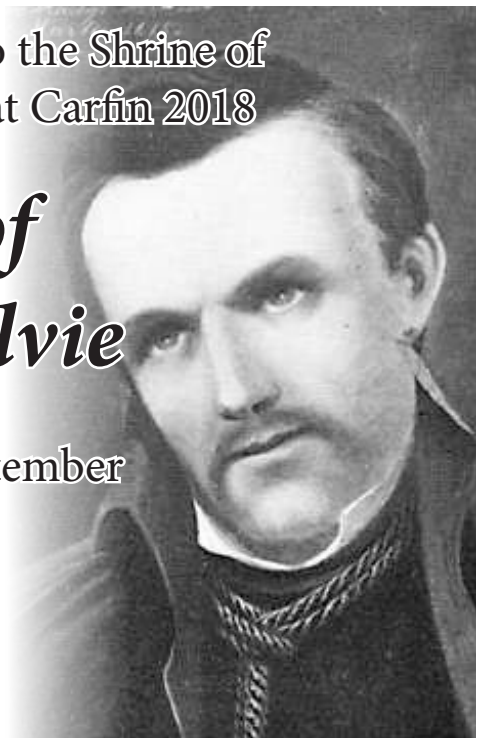
National Pilgrimage to the Shrine of
Our Lady of Lourdes at Carfin 2018

In honour of
St John Ogilvie

3pm, Sunday 2nd September

Principal Celebrant
Archbishop Tartaglia

Homilist
Bishop Stephen Robson



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