



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

St Mary Magdalene's Church

7, Glenearn Road, Perth, PH2 0BD

Tel: 01738 643418

Monsignor Charles Hendry - Parish Priest
Rev. Krzysztof Jablonski (07851 735590) - Permanent Deacon

4th Sunday of Advent, Year C, 23rd December 2018

Pope Francis' Christmas Message 2018

My Dear Brothers
and Sisters in Christ,

Pope Francis' catechesis on Christmas was focused on the idea of "surprises." While the world insists on exchanging presents, the Holy Father asked, "what gifts and surprises would God want?"

Looking back at the first Christmas, the Pope said it was "full of surprises," for Mary, for Joseph. From the Angel's announcement of Mary's pregnancy, to the Flight into Egypt, that first Christmas "brought unexpected changes" to their lives.

"But it was in the middle of the night of Christmas," Pope Francis said, "that the biggest surprise of all arrived: The Most High is a little baby." Christmas, he said, means celebrating the "unprecedented things of God," or rather, "the unprecedented God."

The Pope said that "doing Christmas"

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us
and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation

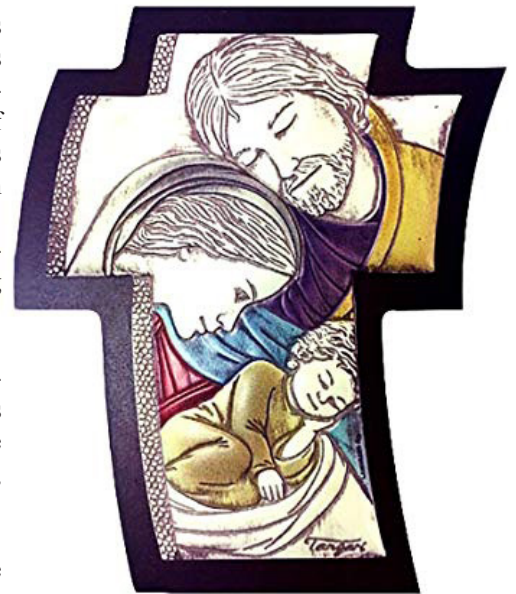
I am the handmaid
of the Lord:
let what you have said
be done to me.

means "welcoming on earth the surprises of heaven." It means helping the needy, as Jesus came down to help us in our neediness; trusting in God, as Mary did, even if we don't understand his plans; rising up, as Joseph did, to accomplish God's will, even if it means changing our own plans.

If, on the other hand, we prefer the usual, mundane celebrations, we risk doing Christmas wrong.

"If Christmas remains [only] a beautiful traditional feast," where the focus is on ourselves rather than Jesus, "it will be a lost opportunity," the Pope said. "Please, don't make Christmas worldly!"

And so, he explained, it will really be Christmas "if, like Joseph, we make room for silence; if, like Mary, we say 'Here I am' to God; if, like Jesus, we are close to those who are alone; if, like the shepherds, we go out of our enclosures to be with Jesus."



"Dear brothers and sisters," Pope Francis said in conclusion, "have a good Christmas, rich in the surprises of Jesus!"

*Monsignor Hendry
and Deacon Kris
wish you all a*

*Holy and Joyful Christmas
and a Good New Year*

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 (anticipated Mass); 9am; 11am,

5pm (Polish) & 6.30pm

PRAYERS

Please pray for the repose
of the souls of

May Hendry, John Lees,
Sheilagh and Katharine Campbell,
Marjory Rodgers, Luigi Rossini,
Jean McDonald and Mary Burke

and for the
souls of all the faithful departed.

**Eternal rest grant
unto their souls, O Lord.**



"He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty."

The Canticle of Mary, Luke 1:51-53

Collection

Last Sunday's collection amounted to £354.

Day of Information and Celebration for catechists

Saturday, 12th January, 2019

10am-3.30pm

Diocesan Centre

24-28 Lawside Road,

Dundee

Introducing a programme for the formation of catechists in the Diocese for all age levels, to share a vision for evangelisation, catechesis and the new evangelisation for those who are lapsed.

The day is intended for current catechists in all our parishes, including those with Catholic Schools and those who would like to be formed as catechists but who have never taken part in this ministry.

WANTED

Safeguarding Trainers

The Diocese is seeking to recruit volunteer Trainers who would be willing to attend the T4T (two day course) which will prepare you to deliver Safeguarding Training in parishes.

The course will take place within Dunkeld Diocese on the following dates:

**Saturday 19th Jan 10am-4pm
and Saturday 26th Jan 10am-4pm**

Would you be willing to join the current Safeguarding Trainers (at present more than 60 volunteers provide training in their respective diocesan locations) who work to ensure that everyone is safe in our parishes?

Please contact the Diocesan Office 01382 225354 or tcampbell@scottishcatholicssafeguarding.org.uk for more information

Christmas Masses in St Mary Magdalene's

Monday 24th
9pm (Vigil for Christmas)

Tuesday 25th
Christmas Day
8am and 10am

Wednesday 26th
St Stephen's Day
10am

Thursday 27th
St John the Evangelist
8am

Friday 28th
Holy Innocents
8am

Saturday 29th
St Thomas Becket
10am

Sunday 30th
The Holy Family
10am

Monday 31st
St Silvester

Tuesday 1st January
Day of Prayer for
Justice and Peace
10am

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