



*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

The Epiphany of Our Lord 6th January 2019



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Winston Churchill is quoted as saying that: "Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all those other forms that have been tried."

Those living in a democracy can understand what he means, for often people feel that they have no say in determining what those in power do, that they are unable to influence decisions that affect their lives, that government is remote from the people that is governed.

Good government, though, is essential, and democracy, despite its limitations, does allow people to work for the good government that we need at national and international level.

For major issues confronting the world today -such as climate change, war and conflict, global poverty, refugees and migrants -cannot be solved by individuals no matter how committed.

But that is not to say that governments can be left to get on with it.

Those working for justice and peace, those concerned about saving the planet, those engaged in caring for those in need, can be frustrated by the policies that governments put into practice.

Pressure needs to be put on governments to persuade them to act in the common good, with concern for the whole of humanity: to act for peace, to welcome the stranger, to care for the environment, to protect the unborn and the elderly.

To bring about good government those with a true Christian spirit need to engage with politics, and that means more than just voting in elections.

Every time there is an election you get to vote for a candidate -but that is not enough. Who decides who the candidates are? Who picks the candidates -the political parties do. If you are not involved in a party you have no say in that. Unless you are a party member you can't help choose the candidates nor can you help steer party policy in the right direction. Those Catholics there-

fore who get involved in party politics are putting their faith into action.

Pope Francis has repeatedly said that "political engagement is one of the highest expressions of charity".

He urges those who follow Christ to engage in politics and says that to do so they need to be "courageous, because politics is a sort of daily martyrdom: to seek the common good without allowing oneself to be corrupted". Once elected, politicians, as we know, are influenced by public opinion.

Each of us has to ask ourselves: How can I influence public opinion if I never express an opinion in public? How can I influence government and politicians if I never let them know what I think?

In a democracy it is never enough just to allow ourselves to be governed, to presume that those who make decisions will make the right decisions, that the values we have are the values that they will put into practice.

Democracy puts an obligation on the citizen to be engaged with the political process, to work for the good of society, to be active in trying to achieve good government - and not just leave it to others.

The followers of Jesus Christ are called to be like John the Baptist. He was a voice crying in the wilderness. Christians are called to be a voice for the voiceless, a voice upholding the dignity of every human person, a voice proclaiming the values of Jesus Christ, a voice urging governments and politicians and those in power to act always for the common good of all humanity.

We are that voice: sometimes we may shout, sometimes we may whisper, but we are a voice that should never be silent. May this New Year be a time of peace and happiness for you, your families and for all of humanity.

With my prayers and best wishes,

+ William Nolan
Bishop of Galloway

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

All nations
shall fall prostrate before you,
O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory be to you, O Christ,
proclaimed to the pagans;
Glory be to you, O Christ,
believed in by the world.

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

Fr Jim McCrudden, Jim Doogan,
Shona Jones, Fr John Robertson,
Marie Thérèse Fenton,
Anna Vartman (USA),
Jean Donnelly (Aberdeen),
Rosemary Jowett
and Jean McDonald and for the
souls of all the faithful departed.

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

FEASTDAYS THIS WEEK

Monday 7th
St Raymond

Tuesday 8th January
St Nathalan

Collection

Last Sunday's collection amounted
to £363.92.

Special Collection

Today, on the Feast of the Epiphany,
there will be a special collection for
Justice and Peace.

Concert next Sunday

After Mass next Sunday you are
invited to remain in the church for a
short recital by a group of Polish musi-
cians who have delighted us in the past
with their playing.

***Blessed be the politician with
a lofty sense and deep
understanding of his role.***

***Blessed be the politician who
personally exemplifies cred-
ibility.***

***Blessed be the politician who
works for the common good
and not his or her own inter-
est.***

***Blessed be the politician
who remains consistent.***

***Blessed be the politician
who works for unity.***

***Blessed be the politician
who works to accomplish
radical change.***

***Blessed be the politician
who is capable of listening.***

***Blessed be the politician
who is without fear.***

Pope Francis
New Year's Day, 2019

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 respec-
tive diocesan locations) who work to ensure
that everyone is safe in our parishes?

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

*Cry out with a hundred thousand
tongues. I see that the world is
rotten because of silence.*

Saint Catherine of Sienna

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.*

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