



*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

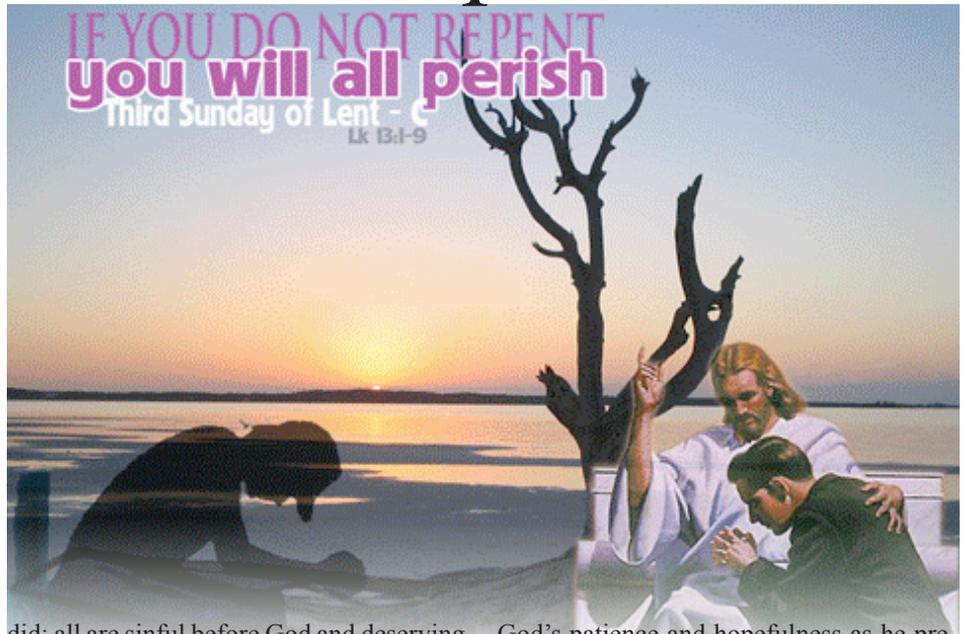
3rd Sunday of Lent Year C, 24th March 2019

God's call to repent

Now into the third week of the Season of Lent, our Sunday Gospel prepares us to hear Lent's call to conversion and repentance. Today's reading is found in the chapters of Luke's Gospel that describe Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. During this journey, Jesus teaches and heals. He must also respond to those who question and challenge his authority and actions. There is no parallel in Mark's or Matthew's Gospels for today's reading from Luke. While Mark and Matthew describe an incident in which Jesus curses the fig tree, today's reading makes the barren fig tree the subject of a parable.

Luke tells us that some among the crowds report to Jesus a massacre of Galileans by Pilate. The intention of the crowd seems to be to ask Jesus to explain why these people suffered. It was commonplace to render people's suffering as evidence of their sinfulness. Jesus challenges this interpretation. Those who were massacred were no more or less sinful than the ones who report the situation to Jesus. Jesus replies that even a fatal accident, a natural disaster, ought not to be interpreted as punishment for sin.

Jesus' words at first appear to have a fire-and-brimstone quality. Jesus says in essence, "Repent or perish as these people



did; all are sinful before God and deserving of God's punishment." The tone changes, however, in the parable that follows. The parable of the barren fig tree contrasts the patience and hopefulness of the gardener with the practicality of the property owner. When told to cut down the fig tree because it is not producing fruit, the gardener counsels patience. If properly tended, the barren fig tree may yet bear fruit.

Throughout his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus has been teaching about the Kingdom of God. In this parable, we find an image of

God's patience and hopefulness as he prepares his Kingdom. God calls us to repent, and it is within his power to punish us for our failure to turn from our sinfulness. And yet God is merciful. He delays punishment and tends to us so that we may yet bear the fruit he desires from us.

This, then, is our reason for hope: Not only does God refuse to abandon us, he chooses to attend to us even when we show no evidence of his efforts. Next week's Gospel will give an even clearer picture of the kind of mercy that God shows to us.

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is compassion and love.

Gospel Acclamation

Unless you repent
you will all perish
as they did.

Extreme Way of the Cross

A group of Perth parishioners are planning to repeat last year's "Extreme Stations of the Cross" - an event that started in Poland but has now spread all across Europe and into North America. They will walk a 25 mile, cross country route to Perth, at over night and in silence, on Friday 5th-6th April. You are warmly invited to consider if you can join them. If you would like to take part please contact Jaromir Kruczynski 07756 569898.

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

4pm (anticipated Mass); 9am; 11am,

5pm (Polish) & 6.30pm

PRAYERS

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Patrick Boyle and of all the faithful departed.

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

FEASTDAYS

Monday 25th

The Solemnity of the Annunciation

Justice and Peace

A church that doesn't provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed — what gospel is that?

Saint Óscar Romero

Collection

Last Sunday's collection amounted to £302.50 - thank you for your generosity.

Special Collection

There will be a second collection at Mass next Sunday in aid of the Papal and Episcopal Christies - including the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund.

Italian Association

The next monthly meeting of the Italian Association will take place on Saturday 30th March, starting with Holy Mass in Italian in the church at 1pm.

Italian Pilgrimage

A few places remain on this year's Italian Association 8-day Pilgrimage to Rome, Sorrento (including Pompei) Capri and Monte Cassino in September this year. Cost will depend on the final number taking part. For more details please call Perth 622661.

Stations of the Cross

During Lent there will be Stations of the Cross following Mass on Sundays.

SCIAF

SCIAF boxes are available at the back of the Church for your Lenten Alms - please return them on Holy Thursday - at the start of our Holy Triduum.

All Parish catechists and Catholic teachers

You are invited to a series of faith formation meetings with Bishop Stephen Robson, Canon Kevin Golden and Mary O'Duffin - continues on Mondays, 7pm, Pastoral Centre, 24-28 Lawside Road, Dundee. DD3 6XY.

Register now - bishops-secretary@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

If you are unable to attend - the series is being recorded and can be viewed online on www.dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Fr Edward Vella will lead two Lenten talks in St Mary Magdalene's Church on Tuesday evenings at 7pm



Lent

Talks entitled -

Tuesday 2nd April

Do we need God?

Tuesday 16th April

Easter Triumph of Love

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