



*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

1st Sunday of Advent (Year A)

1st December 2019

Stay awake, be vigilant

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of a new liturgical year for the Church. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. It is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. Key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Matthew will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle A). In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus speak about the need for wakefulness, for watchful waiting, for the coming of the Son of Man.

Matthew's Gospel is dated by most scholars after 70AD. Most believe that Matthew wrote for a primarily Jewish community, but one that was no longer centred on the Temple in Jerusalem.

These were Jewish Christians trying to come to terms with their relationship to Judaism in a new situation: Judaism after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem.

There may have been Christians who believed that the events of the world around them gave evidence of the imminent return of the Lord in glory.

The passage from Matthew we read today is rather straightforward. No one knows the precise time of the coming of the Lord in glory, so watchful waiting and vigilance are required. The passage speaks to the uselessness of looking for signs; there will be none. As a thief sneaks in during the night, so will the Lord's coming in glory be.

The question for us as members of the Christian community, then, is how do we prepare for this?

Today's passage speaks more about the manner of waiting, rather than the



details of the preparation. Jesus compares the vigilance required of Christians to the vigilance of a homeowner who knows the plans of the thief.

If one knows that the thief's action is imminent, one remains watchful. As Christians, we know that our Lord is coming even if we cannot know the precise timing. Jesus calls us to be watchful and vigilant, like the homeowner. If we become lax in our Christian living, we may be caught unprepared.

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

I rejoiced
when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'

Gospel Acclamation

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and show us your saving help.

St John the Baptist RC Church, Melville Street, Perth



Carols with the Choir

7.30pm, Sunday 8th December

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 souls of

Sheena Younger & Claire Duncan
and of all the faithful departed

Eternal rest grant

unto their souls, O Lord.

May they rest in peace.

Amen

FEASTDAYS

Tuesday 3rd December

St Francis Xavier

8am Mass

Wednesday 4th December

St John Damascene

7am Mass

Friday 6th December

St Nicholas

8am Mass

Saturday 7th December

St Ambrose

10am Mass

Keeping Christmas

At Our Lady of Lourdes Church,
Struan Road, Perth - Concert on Thurs-
day 5th December 2019 at 7pm. All
welcome to come and join us with tea
and coffee to be served after the perfor-
mance. A bucket collection will be taken
at the end of the show for Parish funds.

Collection

Last Sunday's collection amounted
to £255.82. The Poor Mission Fund
collection raised £130.85. Thank you
for your generosity.

Dunkeld News

The December edition of Bishop
Stephen's Diocesan Newsletter is
available in the parish this weekend -
please take a copy (FREE).

Funeral Mass

The Funeral Mass for Joe Reilly will
take place in St Mary Magdalene's on
Friday 6th December - at 11am.

Hustings Meeting

PACT have arranged a Hustings
Meeting will take place on
Monday 2nd December, 7-8pm, for
Perth and North Perthshire Constitu-
ency, in St Matthew's Church, Tay
Street. This is your chance to hear
the candidates and ask questions.
You are invited to submit questions
beforehand - by 6.45pm if possible.

DUNKELD DIOCESAN CENTRE,
24-28 LAWSIDE ROAD,
DUNDEE, DD3 6XY

Concluding series of talks in the Echoes series

*Supporting Catechists
and Teachers and all who wish
to deepen their faith*

**Mondays at 7pm
2nd December,
9th December
and 16th December**

ENTRY FREE - PLEASE GO ALONG

**Presented by
Mary O'Duffin**

Christmas Cards

Christmas Cards are now on sale in
the church porch.

First Friday Mass

Mass for the 1st Friday of the Months
will be celebrated on Friday 6th De-
cember, at 6pm.

Italian Association

Tuesday 10th December - dinner
dance to be held in McDiarmid Park -
£30. 6.30pm for 7pm.

Italian Classes for learners of all stag-
es continue at 4.15pm in the Small Hall
on Saturdays.

Dunkeld
Youth
Service
ANNUAL ADVENT
RETREAT

7th
december
10 am

8th
december
1.30 pm

**ARE
YOU
READY?**

Price: £10

Age range: 14-19 years

Register via email:
youth-office@dunkelldioocese.org.uk

Diocesan Centre,
24-28 Lawside Road,
Dundee DD3 6XY

*Registration must be in by Sunday
1st December.

Justice and Peace

We must look carefully for the un-
just structures that make HIV and
AIDS possible. We need to com-
bat the racist, sexist, homophobic,
"classist", self-righteous, colonialist
and economic unjust system. A lot
of energy is lost by faith traditions
when they fail to address these
issues.

Fr. Robert Kaggwa M. Afr.,
Response in the debate: 'Can you drink the
cup that I will drink?
HIV/AIDS: Meeting the Challenges,
Exploring the Questions'

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