



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

St Mary Magdalene's Church

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Tel: 01738 643418

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

4th Sunday of Advent (Year A)

22nd December 2019

Emmanuel - 'God with us'

Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about" (Matthew 1:18).

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke).

We must not gloss over too quickly

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

Let the Lord enter!
He is the king of glory.

Gospel Acclamation

The virgin will conceive
and give birth to a son
and they will call him
Emmanuel,
a name which means
'God-is-with-us'.



the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.

The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: ". . . The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us]."

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both co-operative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

Christmas Masses

in St Mary Magdalene's

Tuesday 24th December
9pm (Vigil)

Wednesday 25th December
8am (Mass at Dawn)
and 10am (Christmas Day)



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

Collection

Last Sunday's collection amounted to £392.91. Thank you for your generosity.

Christmas Cards

Christmas Cards are now on sale in the church porch.

Dunkeld News

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

Priests *for* Scotland

A LIFE WORTH LIVING

If you would like to learn more about becoming a priest - please contact Dunkeld Diocese's Vocations Director
Fr Mark Cassidy - 01382 611282

PRAYERS

Please pray for the repose of the souls of
May Hendry, Mark Grossi,
Steven Berry,
Katie and Sheilagh Campbell
and the souls of all
the faithful departed

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



St John's Academy Primary School, Perth

FEASTDAYS THIS WEEK

Thursday 26th December

8am, Mass

Feast of Stephen

Friday 27th December

8am, Mass

**Feast of St John
the Evangelist**

Saturday 28th December

10am, Mass

**Feast of the
Holy Innocents**

Justice and Peace

We must not seek the child Jesus in the pretty figures of our Christmas cribs. We must seek him among the undernourished children who have gone to bed at night with nothing to eat.

Saint Óscar Romero

A very
Happy and
Peaceful
Christmas
to you all

from
Mgr Hendry and
Deacon Kris

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