



*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

7th Sunday of Year A

23rd February 2020

We are perfect just as the Heavenly Father is perfect

The last two antitheses offered in the Sermon on the Mount deal with love of enemies. We should not look at “an eye for an eye” as an inordinately strict punishment. It is actually meant to limit acts of revenge by making sure the punishment is not excessive but fits the crime. However, Jesus asks his followers to take a different approach by resisting retaliation altogether. The response to a stronger person who slaps us on the cheek, takes us to court, or demands a service of us is not to resist. Similarly, for a weaker person, such as a beggar or borrower, we are to give him or her what he or she asks for. Those who are called to the Kingdom of Heaven are to go beyond the way the world usually works and serve God's kingdom here on earth.

The other difficult demand of those who are called to the kingdom is to embrace the enemy. There is no command in the Old Testament to hate individuals in a personal or vindictive way. But there is a religious stance that calls



one to hate evil and to distance oneself from those who participate in evil. In contrast, Matthew emphasizes that love of God and love of neighbour are the fundamental commands on which all else depend. Because God's love is unconditional, we are to strive to love as God does, though, of course, it is challenging. Is it even possible?

The key is in the final verse. We are to be perfect as our heavenly father is perfect. Matthew uses the Greek word *telos*, which is probably better translated here as “complete.” We are not to be perfect as in doing everything correctly, that is, as in being absolutely morally correct. We are to be perfect as in striving to reach the completeness we are called to in the Kingdom of Heaven. Attempting to love our enemies is part of striving for that completeness.

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is compassion
and love.

Gospel Acclamation

If anyone loves me
he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him.

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

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 Richard Asensio
and Vittorio Zuconi
who died recently
and for the souls of
Ralph and Annetta Giulianotti
and Eugene Russell
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

Wednesday 26th February

ASH WEDNESDAY

**Day of Fasting
and Abstinence**

MASSES

7am, 10am and 6pm

Collection

Last Sunday's collection amounted
to £308.18. Thank you for your gener-
osity.

Messages

If you are in urgent need of a priest
- please bear in mind that Mgr Hendry
is no longer driving - but should you
wish to speak to him please telephone
- on 01738 643418 - and speak slowly
and clearly and - if necessary - be ready
to leave an answer phone message -
**together with your name and phone
number.** Thank you for your patience.

Italian classes

Classes for beginners and for speak-
ers at all levels take place in St John's
Church Hall on Saturdays at 4.15pm.
All welcome.

SCIAF BOXES

SCIAF's WEE BOXES are available
in the porch for your Lenten Almsgiv-
ing - please take one away and return
it when you come along to the services
on Holy Thursday.

Carnivale - Masked Ball

The Italian Association's Annual
Masked Ball on Shrove Tuesday 25th
February, has been cancelled due to
unforeseen circumstances.

Catechetical Talks for Adults

Fr Pletts in St James, Kinross offers a se-
ries of brief catechetical talks for adults on
a Tuesday evening, beginning Tuesday 18th
February from 7-8pm. The talk will last
around 15 to 20 minutes and may include
video material, there will be an opportunity
for discussion during and afterwards and
also for tea, coffee and biscuits. The dates
and topics will be:

Tuesday 18th February - Why an obli-
gation for Mass on Sundays and holydays?

Tuesday 25th February - What does the
Church really teach about same-sex attrac-
tion, and why?

Tuesday 3rd March - Do angels and the
devil really exist?

Tuesday 10th March - What do we mean
when the Church speaks of the sanctity of
human life (including contraception, abor-
tion, and euthanasia)?

**WEDNESDAY 26th
FEBRUARY**

ASH WEDNESDAY

*A day of fasting and
abstinence*

**Masses and
distribution of ashes
7am, 10am and 6pm**

Lent Retreat

For the last two years the Ignatian
Spirituality Centre in Glasgow has
been offering a Lent Retreat.

FREE ONLINE OR IN A BOOK:

In 2020 we offer a retreat based on
the Spiritual Exercises of St Igna-
tius Loyola in an accessible and up-
to-date form.

DAILY PRAYER: Material will
be provided for people to pray with
each day of Lent. This will include
Scripture readings, meditations,
pictures and full instructions.

Our Local Group will be led by

Mary O'Duffin,
at Perth Riverside Church,
Bute Drive, Perth. PH1 3BG

Dates and Times of meetings:

7pm **THURSDAYS**

27th February 2020;

5th, 12th, 19th, 26th March 2020

2nd April, then, after a break for
Holy Week, a final session on 16th
April 2020

(Or otherwise on **TUESDAYS** at the
Pastoral Centre, Lawside, Dundee)

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