

# St John the Baptist Catholic Church-The Mother Church of Perth

Canon Mulholland: St John's Presbytery, 20 Melville Street. Perth PH1 5PY 01738 259371

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time -Year C**

**Thank you for your concern regarding Canon Steven Mulholland.** Canon Steven has taken a break in order to rest. He is well and appreciates your prayers and messages of support. In the meantime, and from this Thursday, Fr. Abraham Poonoly will take charge of the Pastoral Care of St. John the Baptist and St. Mary Magdalene's. I know you will welcome him and give him your encouragement.

**Bishop Andrew McKenzie**

**Psalm Response: O LORD, who may abide in your tent?**

**Refreshments in hall after 11am Sunday Mass**

**RECENTLY DEAD:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ann Brown.

**Animae omnium fidelium defunctorum, per misericordiam Dei, requiescant in pace.**

**Tuesday 22nd July - 10am, Feast of St. Mary Magdalene -followed by refreshments in the hall. No evening devotions or Mass.**

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July - 10am, Feast of St. Bridget of Sweden – followed by tea in the church hall and an opportunity to welcome Rev. Mother Maureen Akabogu.**

**The latest rota for parish readers can now be collected from the Sacristy**

The Superior General of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Mother of Christ, **Rev. Dr. Mother Maureen Akabogu**, will be visiting the Sisters at St. John's this week. Rev. Mother will join us for Holy Mass on Wednesday morning and then for a cup of tea in the hall afterwards. Please come along to welcome the Rev. Mother on her visit to the parish.

**In case of hospital or pastoral emergency please contact: Fr Martin Pletts**

**Our Lady of Lourdes, 42 Struan Rd, Perth, PH1 2JP**

**T: 07540 534480**



**The 2025 Centenary Pilgrimage to pray for the Beatification of the Venerable Margaret Sinclair will take place on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September from 12.30-6.00p.m. at St. Patrick's Church, Cowgate, Edinburgh EH1 1NA. Refreshments and sale of devotional goods: 12.30-1.30p.m., Holy Hour: 1.30-2.30p.m., Reflection on Margaret Sinclair: 3.00-4.00p.m., Holy Mass at 4.30p.m. Confessions will be available all day.**

**Sunday Masses:** Saturday 4.00pm (Anticipatory Sunday Mass) 9.00am, 11.00am & 6.30 pm



## The Lives of the Saints – St. Bridget of Sweden



The most celebrated saint of the Northern kingdoms, born about 1303; died 23 July, 1373. She was the daughter of Birger Persson, governor and provincial judge (Lagman) of Uppland, and of Ingeborg Bengtsdotter. Her father was one of the wealthiest landholders of the country, and, like her mother, distinguished by deep piety. St. Ingrid, whose death had occurred about twenty years before Bridget's birth, was a near relative of the family. Birger's daughter received a careful religious training, and from her seventh year showed signs of extraordinary religious impressions and illuminations. To her education, and particularly to the influence of an aunt who took the place of Bridget's mother after the latter's death (c. 1315), she owed that unswerving strength of will which later distinguished her. In 1316, at the age of thirteen, she was united in marriage to Ulf Gudmarsson, who was then eighteen. She acquired great influence over her noble and pious husband, and the happy marriage was blessed with eight children, among them St. Catherine of Sweden. The saintly life and the great charity of Bridget soon made her name known far and wide. She was acquainted with several learned and pious theologians, among them Nicolaus Hermanni, later Bishop of Linköping, Matthias, canon of Linköping, her confessor, Peter, Prior of Alvastrå, and Peter Magister, her confessor after Matthias. She was later at the court of King Magnus Eriksson, over whom she gradually acquired great influence. Early in the forties (1341-43) in company with her husband she made a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostella. On the return journey her husband was stricken with an attack of illness, but recovered sufficiently to finish the journey. Shortly afterwards, however, he died (1344) in the Cistercian monastery of Alvastrå in East Gothland. Bridget now devoted herself entirely to practices of religion and asceticism, and to religious undertakings. The visions which she believed herself to have had from her early childhood now became more frequent and definite. She believed that Christ Himself appeared to her, and she wrote down the revelations she then received, which were in great repute during the Middle Ages. They were translated into Latin by Matthias Magister and Prior Peter. St. Bridget now founded a new religious congregation, the Brigittines, or Order of St. Saviour, whose chief monastery, at Vadstena, was richly endowed by King Magnus and his queen (1346). To obtain confirmation for her institute, and at the same time to seek a larger sphere of activity for her mission, which was the moral uplifting of the period, she journeyed to Rome in 1349, and remained there until her death, except while absent on pilgrimages, among them one to the Holy Land in 1373. In August, 1370, Pope Urban V confirmed the Rule of her congregation. Bridget made earnest representations to Pope Urban, urging the removal of the Holy See from Avignon back to Rome. She accomplished the greatest good in Rome, however, by her pious and charitable life, and her earnest admonitions to others to adopt a better life, following out the excellent precedents she had set in her native land. The year following her death her remains were conveyed to the monastery at Vadstena. She was canonized, 7 October, 1391, by Boniface IX.

*(Taken from Catholic Encyclopedia)*

Holy Father, we humbly come before You, inspired by the life of **St. Mary Magdalene**, and with confidence in the power of her prayers. Grant us the strength to seek You with unwavering faith, to embrace transformation, and to share Your love boldly. May we, like her, be steadfast witnesses to Your resurrection and proclaim Your grace in our lives. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

