

ST FILLANS PARISH NEWSLETTER

Dunkeld Diocese, Scottish Charity No: SC001810
Website: stfdac.co.uk

04th October 2020

27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

During this very difficult period, it was felt that some form of communication/support network could prove very useful to Parishioners, especially those who are housebound and vulnerable.

Please contact Fr. Les by phone 01877 330 702 or by email: parishpriest@stfdac.co.uk for further information.

A TRUE VINEYARD



The church is the vineyard of the Lord. It has been placed by God “on a fertile hillside; he spaded it, cleared it of stones, and planted the choicest vines.” Unfortunately, what grows in this vineyard is often not a crop of grapes but wild fruit, of no use to the master.

We have within our community a good share of selfishness, power grabbing, and short-sightedness. The very same social ills that we see in the world at large can be found right here within our own community: racism, sexism, economic injustice, and marginalization.

We pray that God “forgive our failings.” We hope that God will “take care of this vine and protect what your right hand has planted.” The challenge is for us to become a true vineyard of the Lord, free of all the sinful conditions that we lament in the world. We work for the day when Christians will form a community of Christ united in love and service.

Is it too much to hope for? No, it is not, as long as we maintain our faith in our God, who can “lead us to seek beyond our reach.”

Although the Catholic Church has been endowed with all divinely revealed truth and with all means of grace, her members fail to live by them with all the fervour they should. As a result, the radiance of the Church’s face shines less brightly in the eyes of our separated brethren and of the world at large, and the growth of God’s kingdom is retarded. Every Catholic must therefore aim at Christian perfection and, each according to his station, play his part so that the Church ... may daily be more purified and renewed. **Vatican II, Decree on Ecumenism, 1964:4**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



Yesterday, **Amelie Iona Trotter**, born on 27th July 2011, living in Doune, received the First Holy Communion.

We congratulate to Amelie and her Family Walter and Iona Trotter.

The Parents would like to thank *Mrs Liz Hunter* for instruction and tuition for sacrament of the Eucharist.

*May God bless you all
for giving this witness of
Catholic Faith*

WELCOME TO NEW PARISHIONER: ANNE ANGUS

Hello, my name is **Anne Angus**. I am a new parishioner in Doune. I moved to a new house from Causwayhead in Stirling last week. In the pandemic this is all a bit strange, but I look forward to settling here. I have moved in to Kilmadock Apartments which was the old Church of Scotland Church Hall. I feel quite blessed with a cross atop the roof. I originally hale from Glasgow but have moved about a lot with work. When I retired, I moved to Stirling to study at the University. I look forward to meeting folk. I am a Reader and a Eucharistic Minister. Once things are back to normal, I am available if needed. **All will be well. Regards, Anne**

FROM THE PARISH PRIEST: Dear Anne Angus, I am delighted to have you join our parish family. Working together, we seek to build a strong parish community where all feel welcome and inspired by the Gospel to live God’s mission with faith, hope and love. I pray that you may find warmth, encouragement and spiritual growth in our parish and I look forward to getting to know you personally in the weeks and months ahead. **God bless you and your family. Fr. Leszek**

HOLY MASSES IN OUR PARISH

Please pass this information onto anyone who may not have internet access.

We know that going to church is both a spiritual and social space for people to share their lives and faith. In this time of uncertainty, with our churches limited spaces to attend, things are particularly difficult. **As a result of physical distancing guidelines, our capacity is limited.** To ensure everyone has the opportunity to be present at Holy Mass places will be allocated. We want you to be able to celebrate Holy Mass in person safely. To do so, we are following government guidelines. We care about your health and safety. If you are in a high-risk group, we encourage you to continue attending online. While we cannot guarantee a germ-free environment, we are taking steps to help prevent transmission of COVID-19. Everyone over the age of 5 must wear a face covering in church and **EVERYONE MUST** use the hand sanitiser provided before entering the church and follow the guidance inside the church.



**ONLINE
REGISTRATION**

Internet October 2020 Holy Mass registration is available on our Parish website:

<https://stfdac.co.uk/covid-19/returning-to-mass>

Online registration is preferable to process it immediately.

For more information or register by phone please call Parish Priest on 07909112630.

NOTICE - WEEKLY COLLECTION: As we are unable in the current situation, to hand round the church collection basket, it has been placed on the table at the back of the church for your donations. *Thank you for your generosity.*

DONATE

We are now also able to have our **Readers at Mass** and there is guidance in place to assist us. *Please email to let me know which Mass you have registered for so I can provide you with the information.*

SUNDAY READINGS

FIRST READING

Isaiah 5:1-7

Israel is the vineyard God has tended. It is expected to bear fruits of holiness

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug the soil, cleared it of stones and planted choice vines in it. In the middle he built a tower, he dug a press there too. He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me. What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done? I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead? Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on. I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn. I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of Hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of Judah that chosen plant. He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 79:9, 12-16, 19-20

R.:/ The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

You brought a vine out of Egypt; to plant it you drove out the nations. It stretched out its branches to the sea, to the Great River it stretched out its shoots.

R.:/ The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

Then why have you broken down its walls? It is plucked by all who pass by. It is ravaged by the boar of the forest, devoured by the beasts of the field.

R.:/ The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted.

R.:/ The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. God of hosts bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

R.:/ The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:6-9

We should do whatever is true, honourable, just, and right

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to Philippians

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33-43

God is master of the vineyard and expects a proper return from the tenants

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next, he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally, he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So, they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: *It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see?* 'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

First Reading

1. "What more was there to do for my vineyard that I had not done?" Could we have done anything to prevent discrimination? What could we have done to prevent global warming? What can we do now to rectify other wrongs? Might these crises be comparable to the "wild grapes" Isaiah sings about in his friend's vineyard?
2. What are some things you could do if you discovered that all the "grapes" in your spiritual garden are all turning out small or sickly?

Second Reading

1. How do you feel about the God of peace standing guard over your mind and heart? What does St. Paul say takes the place of anxiety and the worries? Are his words true for you?
2. What would happen to anxieties in the world right now (e. g. global warming, racial injustice) if all people embraced whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, ... anything worthy of praise?

Gospel

1. Who are God's messengers right now? What changes in society do they advocate? How can you somehow be God's envoy in your community, work, church, or the world? Will you move toward necessary changes in society?
2. In his morning meditation on the Wicked Tenants, the Pope suggested that we think about "what we can do so as not to kill the Word of God, ... to not lock up the Holy Spirit."

[May] the Lord grant us the grace of humility to look upon Jesus as the Saviour who speaks to us: he speaks to me! Each one of us ought to say: he speaks to me! When we read the gospels: he is speaking to me!

Morning Meditation in the Chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae

FAMILY CONNECTION

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:33-43

Jesus tells the parable about the wicked tenants.

In an ideal household, family members know the rules and follow them consistently. Even the most conscientious among us, however, sometimes needs to be reminded of the rules and their importance. How we respond to such correction reveals our true character. In today's Gospel Jesus exposes the religious leaders for their failure to heed God's messengers. It is an opportunity for us to consider how we respond to those who are God's messengers today, calling us to correct our ways and return to the way of the Lord.

As you gather as a family, talk about some of the most important rules of your household. Consider how consistently family members follow these rules. How are family members reminded when rules are not being followed? How do they respond? In today's Gospel Jesus corrects the religious leaders through a parable telling them that they have not heeded God's messengers. **Read Matthew 21:33-43.** What are some of God's rules that we must follow? How do we respond to God's messengers today? Pray together as a family that you will heed God's messengers and follow God's ways.

Pray together the Act of Contrition for the times when your family has not heeded God's word.

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

DAILY PRAYER THIS WEEK

Anxiety about getting things done, fear of losing wealth and a lack of compassion for our neighbours are all themes in this week's gospel. This can be a week of asking God for the wisdom and discernment we need to find the balance in our lives and a sense of where our focus should really be.

We can do this by threading our days with an awareness of God's presence in the tiny moments of quiet time that we come across. As we awaken and sit at the side of our bed, we can simply ask, "**Loving God, help me to love you today with all my heart, with all my being, with all my strength, and with all my mind. Help me to see you in my neighbour today.**"

Later in the day, as things seem to go faster and get more complex, we can ask again not to be anxious about so many things and to remember the great gift of Jesus' presence in our lives. As we do the laundry, go to the store, or take care of family we can again ask our Lord to let us be aware of the presence of the loved ones with whom we come in contact - the real "riches" we have in our lives. **The Our Father has been called the Perfect Prayer** and this week might be a good time to focus in on it with our whole hearts. In the quiet moments before we go to bed, we can practice saying each line of the prayer, very slowly, perhaps stopping to ponder one line that calls to our hearts in a special way. **[Our Father...]. May this week God bless our ability to continue to ask for what we need, over and over.**

OUR PRAYER FOR CREATION

Let us be the "protector" of creation, of God's plan written in nature, protector of our neighbour, of the environment. Let us not allow signs of destruction and death to accompany our world! However, to "protect" we must also

take care of ourselves! Let us remember that hatred, jealousy, pride pollute life! – cried in his homily during the Mass inaugurating the pontificate of Pope Francis. Referring to the vocation of St. Joseph, as the protector of Mary, Jesus, the Church, who was the "protector" because he knew how to listen to God, allowed himself to be led by His will, and for this reason he was caring for the persons entrusted to him, was able to read events realistically, was alert to what surrounds him and was able to make the smartest decisions, the Pope interestingly took ecological threads.

CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

Father of all, / Creator and ruler of the universe, / You entrusted your world to us as a gift. / Help us to care for it and all people, / that we may live in right relationship / with You, / with ourselves, / with one another, / and with creation.

Christ our Lord, / both divine and human, / You lived among us and died for our sins. / Help us to imitate your love for the human family / by recognizing that we are all connected / to our brothers and sisters around the world, / to those in poverty impacted by environmental devastation, / and to future generations.

Holy Spirit, / giver of wisdom and love, / You breathe life in us and guide us. / Help us to live according to your vision, / stirring to action the hearts of all / individuals and families, / communities of faith, / and civil and political leaders.

Triune God / help us to hear the cry of those in poverty, and the cry of the earth, so that we may together care for our common home. / Amen.

ROSARY PRAYER OCTOBER 2020

October is traditionally the month dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. After weekly Mass we will recite the Rosary Prayer. May the Rosaries be a defence for our peoples from the snares, traps, and entanglements of the devil.

THE MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

The Five Joyful Mysteries

1. The Annunciation.
2. The Visitation.
3. The Nativity.
4. The Presentation.
5. The Finding in the Temple.

The Five Mysteries of Light

1. His Baptism in the Jordan.
2. His self-manifestation at the wedding of Cana.
3. His proclamation of the Kingdom of God, with his call to conversion.
4. His transfiguration.
5. His institution of the Eucharist.

The Five Sorrowful Mysteries

1. The Agony in the Garden.
2. The Scourging at the Pillar.
3. The Crowning of Thorns.
4. The Carrying of the Cross.
5. The Crucifixion.

The Five Glorious Mysteries

1. The Resurrection.
2. The Ascension.
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit.
4. The Assumption.
5. The Crowning of the Virgin.



O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of hell, lead all souls to heaven, especially those who are in most need of Thy mercy.

STARTUP STIRLING FOODBANK



Hello everyone, I hope you are all keeping well and managing in these constantly changing times.

I would like to update you on the situation at Start up Stirling Foodbank.

During the months of April and May at the start of Lockdown the need for support throughout the whole of Stirling District was up by 100 per cent from the same time last year. It has since settled down but with an increase currently running at approx. 25per cent.

It is anticipated that when the Furlough Scheme ceases at the end of October, there will be a further increasing need for food for those who have considerably reduced income and those who have lost their job due to this Pandemic.

The Co-op still have a donations box which is emptied on a regular basis but due to the number of households now ordering food online/home delivery, donations from the public to the Food Bank via Supermarkets are adversely affected.

If you are in a position to make either a donation of food or money that would be of great benefit to those

people in the Stirling District Community who are seriously affected in these most difficult of times.

One off Donations or regular Direct Debits can be made using the **Startup Stirling website (startupstirling.org.uk)** or you can send a cheque to **Start Up Stirling, 16B Whitehouse Road, Stirling FK7 7SP.**

As it is difficult to take cash/cheque donations after Mass on Sundays, and if that is your preferred option, then please ring me on 01877 330394 when I can collect your donation and deliver it to the Start Up Stirling Office.

*Thank you.
Helen*



October 4, 2020 | Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 5:1-7 | Phil 4:6-9 | Mt 21:33-43

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Have you ever had that feeling that all is right with the world? Perhaps it's the cool breeze on a crisp fall day, holding a newborn baby for the first time, or watching your friends or family enjoying each other's company around the dinner table. These are grace-filled moments that bring to mind St. Paul's words today which speak of "the peace of God that surpasses all understanding." It can be all too easy to lose sight of them amid the stresses of daily life and a news feed dominated by negativity and catastrophic events. Paul, never one to shy away from taking a stand, is not asking us to bury our heads in the sand, however. His Letter to the Philippians encourages us to "have no anxiety at all," and turn our thoughts to "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious." In doing so, we can not only counter the negativity, but persevere in faith as we confront the challenges of 2020.

PRAY Focus on the encouragement of St. Paul's words today and pray Psalms 100, 136, and 148. Pray these sacred hymns of praise and thanksgiving, and then suggest that you pray them together with your friend.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Paul goes on to say, in that same reading: "Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you." I think Paul just offered us the secret to a happy life! Allow this passage to speak to you today. Allow God's peace to permeate your heart and calm the unrest that can so easily creep in these days. And then pray that you can be the true, honorable, and gracious presence in another's life. Send this passage to a friend who may be hurting in some way, and invite him/her to think of a time recently when they felt the presence of God, the peace of God, in their life. And then offer to accompany them in their struggles - walk beside them and encourage them to "think about these things" that are excellent or worthy of praise.

MASS SIGN-UP

YOU MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND

Internet October 2020 Holy Mass registration will be available on our Parish website on 28/09/2020.

<https://stfdac.co.uk/covid-19/returning-to-mass>

Online registration is preferable to process it immediately.