

# ST FILLAN'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

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

29<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B

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.*

### NEGLECTING THE PRESENT



**Advent is a time to recognize** that we are “*sinful; all of us have become like unclean men, all our good deeds are like polluted rags.*” Our personal and social sins are many: hatred, violence, oppression, indifference, selfishness, etc.

**Advent is also a time of** “*longing for Christ our Saviour,*” a time in which we “*wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus.*” We look forward to the celebration of Christmas, the commemoration of Jesus’ birth, but we also look forward to the “*promise and hope*” of heaven, which we want God to “*teach us to love.*”

The longing for Christ causes us to want things to change for the better. We want God to find us “*blameless on the day of Our Lord Jesus Christ.*” With Isaiah’s words in mind: “*Would that you might meet us doing right, we ask God to increase our strength of will for doing good.*”

**Advent, then, is** an expression of our faith in the possibility of a better world. We do not have to be at each other’s throats. We can ‘do right’ in the areas of race relations, family obligations, and personal responsibilities. We can ‘do good’ to the poor, the elderly, the homeless, and to all our brothers and sisters at home and abroad. We can become blameless, beacons of social justice, examples of faith and love, peacemakers.

**The message of Advent is to** “*be constantly on the watch!*” We base this constant watch not on fear but on hope in God’s “*promise of eternal life.*”

The promise of Christmas is a joyful anticipation that “*The Lord will shower his gifts, and our land will yield its fruit.*”

*All too often Christians are faulted with a certain indifference toward earthly projects, as if one could not fully count on us for radical social reform. The charge may be unfair, but the danger is real enough. Our hope in another life must not be allowed to seduce believers into neglecting our task in the present one.*

U.S. Bishops, Pastoral Letter on Marxist Communism, 1980:42

### HOLY MASS REGISTRATION (4<sup>th</sup> level)

November 29 – December 11, 2020

Due to the level 4 Restrictions our capacity for Mass has been reduced to 20 people. Our Booking system has been changed so that each person must have an individual registration BUT please tick the box: **SEAT ALLOCATION to indicate that you are a family and will be sitting together.**



### KIND REQUEST:

*Can you please help our volunteers by arriving at Mass 10 minutes before the beginning of each Mass. This will allow our volunteers the time needed to arrange seating for everyone. Your cooperation in this matter is kindly appreciated. Many thanks.*

### CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK PRAYER

Jesus our Teacher, in your love for us, / help us to develop our own talents so that we may become / like you / and lead lives of goodness. / Bless all learners and all teachers. /

May our Catholic schools continue to serve our families, / our communities and our country. /

Help us, through our learning, to believe in you / and to celebrate the life of your Church. /

Help us to grow in holiness / as we grow in friendship with you / and try to become saints. /

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, our Lord. / Amen.

## SUNDAY READINGS – INTRODUCTION

**Isaiah 63:16b–17, 19b; 64:2–7**



*The prophet admits his people's sinfulness but recalls God's mercy too.*

**Psalm 80** *“Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.”*

**1 Corinthians 1:3–9:** *We wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we await the return of Christ, the grace of God keeps us steadfast.*

**Mark 13:33–37**

*Be watchful! You do not know when the Lord of the house is coming. We do not know the day or hour when the Master will return, to assess us*

Today's readings remind us that waiting for the Lord is not a passive exercise. Isaiah prays that God “might meet us doing right,” rejecting our sinful ways. Jesus warns his disciples that they must keep watch, because, like servants not knowing when the lord of the house will return, we do not want to be asleep when we should be ready to receive him. Paul assures the Corinthians that they “are not lacking in any spiritual gift” as they wait. Let the word of God inspire us to prepare our hearts for his arrival.

## SUNDAY READINGS

**A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.**

For you are our father, though Abraham does not know us, and Israel does not acknowledge us; you, O Lord, are our father; our Redeemer from of old is your name. Why, O Lord, do you make us stray from your ways and harden our heart, so that we do not fear you? Turn back for the sake of your servants, for the sake of the tribes that are your heritage. that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence – as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil – to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself, we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

## DAILY ADVENT PRAYER

**First Sunday of Advent**

*“Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise.”*

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** To you, my God, I lift my soul, I trust in you; let me never come to shame. Do not let my enemies laugh at me.

**COLLECT:** Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**DAILY MEDITATION:** *Why do you let us wander? ... and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? ... Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down. ... Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands.* Advent begins with this pleading for our God to save us. Let us pray to be open and available to his coming to save us, with a complete renewal of our spirit this Advent. *Be watchful! Be alert!* Mark 13

**INTERCESSIONS:** To God our Father, who has given us the grace to wait in graceful hope for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us make our prayer: *Show us your mercy, Lord.*

We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. **The Word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial: Psalm 79: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19**

**R/. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help.

**R/. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

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/. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name.

**R/. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

**A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to God always for you because of the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him with all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ; who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **The Word of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.**

Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.” **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Sanctify us in mind and body, - keep us without sin until the coming of your Son. *Show us your mercy, Lord.*

Make us walk this day in holiness, - and live upright and devout lives in this world. *Show us your mercy, Lord.*

May we be clothed in our Lord Jesus Christ, - and filled with the Holy Spirit. *Show us your mercy, Lord.*

Lord, help us to stand watchful and ready, - until your Son is revealed in all his glory. *Show us your mercy, Lord.*

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Lord God, I sense your power, your might and I stand in awe, painfully aware of how poor and weak I am before you. As I begin this Advent journey, teach me to turn to you in my fear and sorrow. I do not want to keep making my heart hard against you turning a deaf ear to your invitation. Only you can help me to soften, to be like the clay in your gentle potter's hands.

*May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.*

## MONDAY

*“Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise.”*

**The Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Hear the word of the Lord, O nations; declare it to the distant lands: Behold, our Saviour will come you

need no longer fear. O you, my God, I lift my soul, I trust in you; let me never come to shame. Do not let my enemies laugh at me.

**COLLECT:** Keep us alert, we pray, O Lord our God, as we await the advent of Christ your Son, so that when he comes and knocks he may find us watchful in prayer and exultant in his praise. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**For St. Andrew:** We humbly implore your majesty, O Lord, that, just as the blessed Apostle Andrew was for your Church a preacher and pastor, so he may be for us a constant intercessor before you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**DAILY MEDITATION:** That He may instruct us in His ways. Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord! We want to begin this journey by rallying ourselves to turn to the Lord with great hope. In the midst of many discouraging challenges in our lives and the violence in the world around us, we desire to spend this day in anticipation of the graces our God desires to give us. They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again. Isaiah 2 For the Feast of St. Andrew, we ask for the grace to be open to the call we receive, leaving behind what holds us back, saying "yes" more and more deeply in this Advent season.

**INTERCESSIONS:** Christ the Lord, Son of the living God, light from light, leads us into the light and reveals his holiness. With confidence, let us make our prayer: *Come, Lord Jesus!*

Light that never fades, dispel the mists about us, - awaken our faith from sleep. *Come, Lord Jesus!*

Guard us from all harm today, - may your glory fill us with joy. *Come, Lord Jesus!*

Give us unfailing gentleness at all times, - toward everyone we meet. *Come, Lord Jesus!*

Come to create a new earth for us, - where there will be justice and peace. *Come, Lord Jesus!*

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Loving God, I sense that all is your creation and everything, and all of us, are being drawn back toward your loving heart. Help me to be a person of peace, to speak about it in an uneasy world, and to live it among the people you have put into my life every day. Light in me a desire to prepare for your coming to stand in the darkness, waiting, eager and filled with joy.

*May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.*

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## TUESDAY

*"Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise."*

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Behold, the Lord will come, and all his holy ones with him; and on that day there will be a great light.

**COLLECT:** Look with favour, Lord God, on our petitions and in our trials grant us your compassionate help, that, consoled by the presence of your Son, whose coming we now await, we may be tainted no longer by the corruption of former ways. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**DAILY MEDITATION:** A shoot shall sprout from the stump. Our God can transform our weakness, our sin, all conflict and all division. From every life-less stump - where any future hope has been cut off - a shoot of new life can sprout. *He shall judge the poor with justice and decide aright for the land's afflicted.* We need to really hear this "good news" so that our hearts can begin to be softened to hear how profoundly our God desires to help us and to make things right with all of creation. Throughout the day today, we can lighten our spirits as we turn to God and pray: Let me rejoice at the coming of your Son, for me! *Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.* Psalm 72

**INTERCESSIONS:** To the eternal Word who became man to reveal to us the new and living way. Let us make our humble prayer: *Come, Lord, and save us!*

God in whom we live and move and have our being, - come teach us that you have made us your own. *Come, Lord, and save us!*

You are not far from each of us, - show yourself to all who search for you. *Come, Lord, and save us!*

Father of the poor and consoler of the afflicted, - set captives free, give joy to those who mourn. *Come, Lord, and save us!*

You hate death and love life, - free all mankind from eternal death. *Come, Lord, and save us!*

**CLOSING PRAYER:** God of forgiveness, I turn to you in my great weakness and beg for your help. Let me feel the joy growing in my heart as I anticipate your coming. I hear the message of the prophets of old and know that the Messiah will bring new life and new ways of living. From the humbleness of my life, help me to grow and bloom and hear the words that will change the world.

*May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.*

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## WEDNESDAY

*"Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise."*

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** The Lord will come, and he will not delay. He will illumine what is hidden in darkness and reveal himself to all the nations.

**COLLECT:** Prepare our hearts, we pray, O Lord our God, by your divine power, so that at the coming of Christ your Son we may be found worthy of the banquet of eternal life and merit to receive heavenly nourishment from his hands. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**DAILY MEDITATION:** We reflect today on a promise of a day full of hope of plenty, of peace. We ask for the grace to be open, to respond to whatever the Lord is offering us in these precious days of preparation and anticipation. No matter how difficult our situation, we can trust in the Lord; we can eat and be satisfied. *I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life. On that day it will be said: "Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is the LORD for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"*

**INTERCESSIONS:** The Word of God humbled himself to dwell with us so that we might see his glory. Rejoicing in hope, let us call upon him: *Emmanuel, be with us.*

Ruler, just and righteous, - bring justice to the poor and the oppressed. *Emmanuel, be with us.*

King of peace, you beat swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks, - turn hatred into love and our grievances into forgiveness. *Emmanuel, be with us.*

You do not judge by appearances, - recognize those who are your own. *Emmanuel, be with us.*

When you come with power and might upon the clouds, - grant that we may come before you without shame. *Emmanuel, be with us.*

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Lord of all, you are a God of plenty, a Lord who provides for us in our need. As I begin these early days of Advent help me to believe that you know what I need. Give me the courage to listen to your voice and the freedom to open my heart to the graces you are offering me to place my trust in you.

*May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.*

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## THURSDAY

*"Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise."*

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** You, O Lord, are close, and all your ways are truth. From of old I have known of your decrees, for you are eternal.

**COLLECT:** Stir up your power, O Lord, and come to our help with mighty strength, that what our sins impede the grace of your mercy may hasten. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**DAILY MEDITATION:** “On that day ...” The reading from Isaiah is another promise of a day of victory when the tables will be turned on injustice. Today, let us turn to our God, with all our needs. Part of our Advent journey is about learning to hope - learning to imagine what we cannot see. Let us go through our day today, desiring freedom with a growing confidence in our God who promises to save us. Come and set us free, Lord, God of power and might. Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

**INTERCESSIONS:** Christ is the wisdom and power of God, and his delight is to be with the children of men. With confidence, let us pray: *Draw near us, Lord.*

Lord Jesus Christ, you have called us to your glorious kingdom, - make us walk worthily, pleasing God in all we do. *Draw near us, Lord.*

You who stand unknown among us, - reveal yourself to men and women. *Draw near us, Lord.*

You are nearer to us than we to ourselves, - strengthen our faith and our hope of salvation. *Draw near us, Lord.*

You are the source of holiness, - keep us holy and without sin now and until the day of your coming. *Draw near us, Lord.*

**CLOSING PRAYER:** God of strength and protection, I turn to you because I need help. I long to be free enough to trust that I can lean on you. But I become afraid. Help me to trust in you, Lord. Your strength and power are a gentle place of protection. Be a safe refuge when I am being trampled. I long for your help, your protecting care. Help to deliver me from the cold loneliness of these dark nights.

*May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.*

#### FRIDAY

*“Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise.”*

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Behold the Lord will come, descending with splendour to visit his people with peace, he will bestow of them eternal life.

**COLLECT:** Stir up your power, we pray, O Lord, and come, that with you to protect us we may find rescue from the pressing dangers of our sins, and with you to set us free, we may be found worthy of salvation. Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**DAILY MEDITATION:** *The lowly will ever find joy in the Lord, and the poor rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.* In the busiest of times, it is often difficult to realize that our worst enemy is our own sinfulness. When we do realize that, however, we can really beg God to save us. Today, let us say the prayer Jesus gave us, devoutly, and as a real Advent prayer. Our Father, in heaven, may your name be holy; may your kingdom come; may your will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today, your faithful bread for the journey. Forgive us our sins, the way we forgive the sins of others. Don't let us be overcome by temptation, but deliver us from all evil.

**INTERCESSIONS:** Through his Son, God the Father revealed his glory to men and women. Therefore, let our joyful cry resound: *Lord, may your name be glorified.*

Teach us, Lord, to love each other, - as Christ loved us for God's glory. *Lord, may your name be glorified.*

Fill us with all joy and peace in faith, - that we may walk in the hope and strength of the Holy Spirit. *Lord, may your name be glorified.*

Help all mankind, Lord, in your loving mercy, - be near to those who seek you without knowing it. *Lord, may your name be glorified.*

You call and sanctify the elect, - though we are sinners, crown us with eternal happiness. *Lord, may your name be glorified.*

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Jesus, protector, I long for your coming. The promise of new light is there if only I can believe. Protect me from dangers and lead me through the gloom and darkness to the joy I so long to find in you. Lift me from my lowly sins and give me the promise of salvation with no more shame, only the light

and saving grace of your love. Let the ancient dream be fulfilled in you and peace come to this life and world.

*May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.*

#### SATURDAY

*“Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise.”*

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Come and show us your face, O Lord, who are sealed upon the Cherubim, and we will be saved.

**COLLECT:** O God, who sent your Only Begotten Son into this world to free the human race from its ancient enslavement, bestow on those who devoutly await him the grace of your compassion from on high, that we may attain the prize of true freedom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**DAILY MEDITATION:** *Blessed are all who wait for the Lord. No more will you weep.* The prophetic promise is so great. What our God has done is so complete a victory over sin and death. In the midst of my day today, can I let myself imagining that salvation touching and transforming me? And can I patiently wait for God's work to take effect in me - letting him open my heart, day by day? Imagining “true liberty” today, let us walk in his ways. No longer will your Teacher hide himself, but with your own eyes you shall see your Teacher, While from behind, a voice shall sound in your ears: “This is the way; walk in it,” when you would turn to the right or to the left. Isaiah 30

**INTERCESSIONS:** Let us pray to God our Father, who from of old has called his people to salvation: *Lord, protect your people.*

You promised to plant the seed of justice among your people, - protect the holiness of your Church. *Lord, protect your people.*

Lord, teach all men and women to listen to your word, - and help believers to persevere in holiness. *Lord, protect your people.*

Keep us in the love of your Spirit, - that we may receive the mercy of your Son who is to come. *Lord, protect your people.*

Father most merciful, strengthen us to the last, - until the day of the coming of Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Lord, protect your people.*

**CLOSING** Lord of Hope, Dare I? Can I really hope? From out of the darkness I sense a dim light ahead, the light of your coming into the world. I so long for the time when you are no longer hidden from me and my deepest desire is to trust in your warm voice I hear behind me, guiding me along a hidden path I do not know. Dry my tears, heal my wounds, and help me to wait for the dawning of the dim light ahead, with a brighter vision of healing and freedom.

*May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.*

