

# ST FILLAN'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

Dunkeld Diocese, Scottish Charity No: SC001810

Website: [stfdac.co.uk](http://stfdac.co.uk)

Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2021

## Thirtieth Second Week in Ordinary Time - 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](mailto:parishpriest@stfdac.co.uk) for further information.

### TEACHING US CHARITY



James Tissot. *The Widow's Mite.*  
between 1886 and 1894  
detail

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Today's liturgy reveals some important facts about the poor.

1) The poor are blessed because they have a greater recognition of their need for God. The two widows in the readings give up everything, totally trusting in the goodness of the Lord.

2) The poor are therefore more generous than others. Jesus made it very clear that "this poor widow contributed more than all the others who donated to the treasury." Recent studies in the United States reveal the same phenomenon: relative to their resources, lower income people are the most generous.

3) The poor may or may not have society on their side, but there is no doubt where God stands: the Lord "secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry, sets captives free, gives sight to the blind, raises up those that were bowed down, protects strangers, and sustains the fatherless and the widow."

Those among us who are not poor receive the challenge to be poor in spirit. We pray at the start of this liturgy for freedom of spirit "... so that we may more willingly give our lives in service to all."

*In teaching us charity, the Gospel instructs us in the preferential respect due to the poor and the special situation they have in society: the more fortunate should renounce some of their rights so as to place their goods more generously at the service of others.*

**Pope Paul VI, Octogesima Adveniens, 1971:23**

Gerald Darring

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### HONOUR

Jesus puts the scribes down. He says they wear odd clothes and make long prayers in order to get noticed; and they want to be noticed because they love being honoured. They also prey on widows. Widows tend to have little money and less power. A person who preys on widows is really dishonourable. But the scribes are dishonourable even just in striving for honour, aren't they? If you saw your mother trying hard to get to be honoured by others, you'd be ashamed for her, wouldn't you? There is something shameful about trying to get honour. It follows that Christians should not care about honour. In fact, if a person who seeks honour is shameful, then it seems that a person who strives not to care about honour is honourable. And so, it seems that it ought to be a point of honour with Christians that they disdain honour. But here things can begin to slide out of control. Suppose you seek the honour of disdaining honour. Does this seeking after honour make you like the scribes? If it is shameful to seek after honour, is it also shameful to seek after the honour of disdaining honour? And if it is shameful to strive for honour and also shameful to strive to disdain honour, is there any road at all to honour? It is worth noticing that in the Gospel Reading, Jesus singles out a widow for honour. Poor as she is, she is giving from the little she has in order to help those who are needier than she is. Jesus praises her and points her out as an exemplar of goodness. To be praised by Jesus is to be honoured indeed! So how did that widow get this singular honour? The first thing to notice about her is that she

wasn't striving for honour, as the scribes were. Although Jesus noticed her, she wasn't trying to get noticed. And the second thing to notice about her is that she wasn't trying to disdain honour either. The only thing she was trying to do is to help those in need. And so, her behaviour shows the solution to the puzzle about honour. The only true road to honour is to love the good and pay no attention at all to honour one way or another.

Eleonore Stump

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### THE NOVEMBER MASS LIST

During November we offer Masses for the dead.



If you would like to enrol a loved one on the Parish November Mass List, they will have Mass offered for them, they will be included in the Masses for the Holy Souls, and they will be prayed for during the Intercessions each Sunday. Also – *after Holy Mass at weekday* – we will pray the Holy Rosary Prayer.

**November Mass offering envelopes are available at the door.**

### MASS FOR DECEASED BISHOPS, PRIESTS & DEACONS

The annual Requiem Mass will be celebrated in Cathedral of St Andrew's in Dundee this year on **Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 12 noon**, to which you are warmly invited.  
**Everyone welcome**

## INTRODUYTION TO SUNDAY LITURGY

The readings today focus on two women whose powerful faith sustains them in their grief. Though we know very little about their backgrounds, both women are widows, so they have lost their husbands, bringing both emotional and financial pain. One widow has no food but a handful of flour and a little oil. The other has no money but two small coins. Yet each is willing to offer what little she has to God's work. The sacrifice each makes portends the sacrifice Christ himself makes on the cross for us all.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

*1 Kings 17:10-16*

#### A reading from the First Book of Kings.

Elijah set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink." As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." But she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied, and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth."

She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil ail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

**The Word of God.** – *Thanks be to God.*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Psalms 145(146):7-10*

#### R./ My soul, give praise to the Lord.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

#### R./ My soul, give praise to the Lord.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down. It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord, who protects the stranger.

#### R./ My soul, give praise to the Lord.

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age.

#### R./ My soul, give praise to the Lord.

Psalm text from The Psalms: A New Translation © 1963 The Grail (England) published by HarperCollins. Version 1 – issued 13 Dec 2020

### SECOND READING

*Hebrews 9:24-28*

#### A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. **The Word of God.** – *Thanks be to God.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

*How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

*Mark 12:38-44*

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

– *Glory to you, O Lord.*

As he taught, Jesus said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honour at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you; this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

**The Gospel of the Lord.** – *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

The Scripture readings are taken from The Jerusalem Bible © 1985 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd. and Doubleday and Co. Ltd.

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

**Introduction:** *We heard in the psalm that God brings justice to the oppressed, food to the hungry, and freedom to those in captivity, so let us turn to God with our needs and the needs of the world.*

*To be read by the People:*

1. For the Church, that we may reach out to the poor and destitute with the generosity of the widows in today's readings, the generosity of generations of faithful people eager to help our brothers and sisters, let us pray to the Lord.
2. That the riches of this bountiful world and the people in it may be used to eradicate hunger and poverty so that never again will anyone live with the anxiety of being unable to afford to feed their families or themselves, let us pray to the Lord.
3. For widows and widowers, that they may be comforted in their loss and supported in their hardship, let us pray to the Lord.
4. That we may always be open to the Lord's call to service and respond willingly and generously to that call, let us pray to the Lord.
5. For all those we serve through our charitable giving, and that our commitment to stewardship may grow, cheerfully giving back to God from the many gifts we have received, let us pray to the Lord.

**Conclusion:** *Generous God, you have given us life, given us love, and through the sacrifice of your Son, given us salvation from our sins. Impel us to pass on what we have received as we encounter your Son in the hungry, the homeless, the naked, the imprisoned, and the poor, as we pray for all our needs, through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## MONTH OF NOVEMBER

the month of November in which the church prays for all who are in the purifying fires of purgatory, waiting for the day when they will join the company of the saints in heaven. *The celebration of Mass is the highest means the Church can provide for charity for the dead, but we can also relieve their sufferings through our prayers, sufferings, and penances.*