

St Fillan's & St Joseph's Parish Newsletter

Dunkeld Diocese, Scottish Charity No: SC001810

Website: stfdac.co.uk

Sunday, 29th May 2022

Seventh Sunday of Easter

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.

UNITY



"That they may be one, as we are one—I living in them, you are living in me—that their unity may be complete." The goal of the entire paschal mystery, and Jesus' wish for all of us, is unity: that we may be one as Jesus and his Father are one.

Today's world is more characterized by division than by unity. We face off against each other as rich and poor. North and South, white and black, African and Asian, Jew and Arab, Christian and Jew, Catholic and Protestant, male and female, young and old, suburban and inner city, conservative and liberal.

Every once in a while, a Stephen comes along, someone so dedicated to the principles which can bring us together that he is willing to surrender his life for the cause. And of course, we gladly take it. Better to sacrifice a Martin Luther King or an Oscar Romero than to lose our favoured position in society!

COME, LORD JESUS!

COME WITH THE LIFE-GIVING WATER THAT WILL WASH AWAY OUR DIVISIONS AND MAKE OUR UNITY COMPLETE.

The Catholic Church considers it her duty to work actively so that there may be fulfilled the great mystery of that unity which Jesus Christ invoked with fervent prayer from His Heavenly Father on the eve of His sacrifice. She rejoices in peace, knowing well that she is intimately associated with that prayer, and then exults greatly at seeing that invocation extend its efficacy with salutary fruit even among those who are outside her fold.

Pope John XXIII,

Address at the Opening of the Second Vatican Council, 1962

Gerald Darring

Copyright © 2022, Gerald Darring. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce for personal or parish use. The above reproduction has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

We hear Saint Stephen in the first reading, bravely testifying to his faith in the face of those who are about to stone him to death. *Where did he find such courage?* John writes of his vision of the Lord coming in judgment at the end of time. *What did he see?*

Jesus prays that all may be one as he and the Father are one. *How can this happen?*

Let us listen attentively and thoughtfully to God's word.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

First Reading - Acts 7:55-60 - What are the parallels between Stephen and Jesus? What made Stephen able to witness with his blood? Have you ever received a grace to do something you wouldn't ordinarily do?

Second Reading - Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20 - How does Christ's sacrifice differ from "the high priest's who enters the sanctuary each year with blood that is not his own"? How absolute is your trust in Jesus?

Gospel - John 17:20-26 - In this Gospel passage Jesus says, "I wish that where I am they also may be with me." *What do you find most reassuring in Pope Francis' thoughts about Jesus' wish?*

God, the Son of God, descends and becomes man, takes our humanity, and redeems it—he now ascends into heaven, taking our flesh with him.

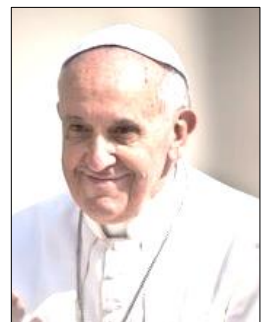
He is the first man who enters heaven, because Jesus is man, true man; he is God, true God; our flesh is in heaven, and this gives us joy.

Now a human body sits at the right hand of the Father for the first time, the body of Jesus, and in this mystery we each contemplate our own future destination.

This is not at all an abandonment; Jesus remains forever with the disciples—with us.

He remains in prayer, because as man, he prays to the Father, and as God, man, and God, he shows him his wounds, the wounds by which he has redeemed us.

Jesus' prayer is there, with our flesh: he is one of us, Godman, and he prays for us.



Pope Francis, Angelus, May 16, 2021

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

✦ For the Church, that we may look to the Holy Spirit for the strength and courage to witness to the truth in the face of opposition, let us pray to the Lord. ✦ For our parish, that we may always love the Lord and keep his word and be a visible sign of God's dwelling place, let us pray to the Lord ✦ That all Christians may be one, in the unity Jesus prayed for two thousand years ago, let us pray to the Lord. ✦ For leaders of nations, that they may respond to threats and provocations without resorting to using instruments of war, let us pray to the Lord. ✦ For those who have lost their lives in Russian war in Ukraine, for the loved ones they left behind, and for the world, which has lost what they would have contributed during the rest of their lives, let us pray to the Lord.

THE PLATINUM JUBILEE OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II



The Platinum Jubilee of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II falls on Friday 3 June.

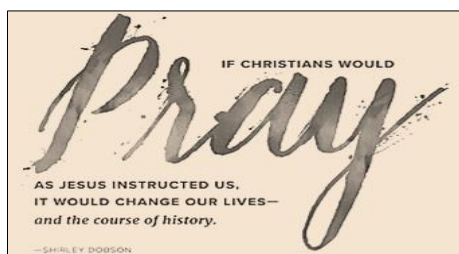
At Mass in Doune at 10.00am, we will pray for the Queen Elizabeth II

after Communion prayer and before the final Blessing:

O God, to whom every human power is subject, grant to your servant our sovereign Elizabeth success in the exercise of her high office, so that, always revering you and striving to please you, she may be constantly secure and preserve for the people entrusted to her care the freedom that comes from civil peace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Picture from the cover page of Hoey, Brian's Book: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Celebration: 70 Years: 1952-2022, by [ISBN 13: 9781841659398]. Book possible to buy at abebooks.co.uk

DAILY PRAYER THIS WEEK



We can hardly believe the message from this week's gospel. It is one of complete invitation to us. Jesus tells us of his intimate bond with the Father and invites us into the same kind of close relationship with Jesus himself. He does not promise us a trouble-free life and is clear about the challenges we will face as his followers. He cautions us that the world will want to make us one of "its own" and Jesus

lovingly protests that we are his, not the world's.

He prays to the Father of us, "They are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me..."

This kind of loving dialogue with the Father is what Jesus wants with us. It does not mean our lives will be trouble-free, but we are offered the peace in our hearts that Jesus longs to give us.

Some days we may feel anything but peace in our hearts. That is the time to pause and open our hands and our hearts to the Lord. Just the simple physical act of opening our hands can send a signal to our hearts.

We can stop thinking and start feeling the love that Jesus has for us. We can begin each morning at the side of our beds, aware of the sacredness of the

PRAYER FOR THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II

– **O Lord, save Elizabeth our Queen.**

And hear us on the day when we call upon you.

– **O Lord, hear my prayer.**

And let my cry come before you.

– **The Lord be with you.**

And with your spirit.

Let us pray. Almighty God, we pray, that your servant Elizabeth, our Queen, who, by your providence has received the governance of this realm, may continue to grow in every virtue, that, imbued with your heavenly grace, she may be preserved from all that is harmful and evil and, being blessed with your favour may, with the royal family, come at last into your presence, through Christ who is the way, the truth and the life. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

CONGRATULATIONS FOR AMELIE TROTTER

On the 21st of April 2022 Amelie Trotter (Aged 10) took part in the WIDA (World Irish Dance Association) World Championship competition for Irish Dancing in Duisburg Germany and came 2nd in her Premiership. She also competed in solo dances and placed 2nd, 2nd, 2nd, 6th. Her next big competition will be in Dublin on 2nd July for the **All-Ireland Competition.**



THE 90th ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF ST. JOHN'S RC HIGH SCHOOL, DUNDEE

This year marks the **90th anniversary of the opening of St. John's RC High School.** *As part of our celebrations all former staff, pupils and friends of the school are cordially invited to join us for an open morning on Saturday 11th June from 10am to 12 noon.* Guests will enjoy a guided tour of the school, be able to look at a display of the school archive and enjoy a cup of tea and home baking. *We look forward to seeing you there!*

Mr. Sean Hagney, Head Teacher of St. John's High School

day ahead of us, and ask for peace, courage and guidance. On our way to work or while taking care of our family, cooking or running errands, we can stop for the briefest moment and ask again: "Lord, help me to feel how much you love me. Help me to accept that love and carry it to all those you send into my life today." And at the end of the day, we can pause again at the side of our bed, reflect for a moment on our day and offer thanks for the moments where we felt in our hearts the love of Jesus. And we can ask that tomorrow we can feel the Lord's own love and compassion for us - and beg that we can pass that along.

Like Peter, we have denied Jesus many times in our lives but he looks at us again with love and simply says, "Follow me."