

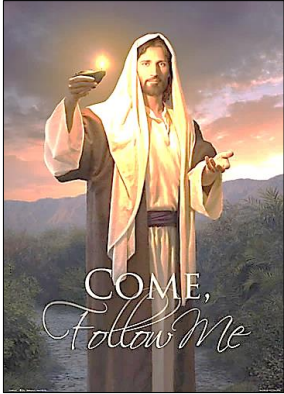


# ST FILLAN'S & ST JOSEPH'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

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

If you feel that some form of communication or support network could be very useful to parishioners, especially those who are housebound and vulnerable, please contact Fr. Les by phone at 01877 330 702 or by email at stjosephcallander@dunkelddiocese.org.uk.

## 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024 – Sunday of the Word of God – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time B



Each Sunday we are reminded of the continuous call to deepen our faith and understanding of God's Word. This Sunday's readings invite us to reflect on the transformative power of God's message and its relevance in our daily lives.

In the Gospel according to Mark, we hear the profound call of Jesus to His first disciples, a call that extends to each one of us today. "Come, follow me," Jesus says, not just as a historical invitation but as a living, breathing summons that resonates in our hearts and communities. This call to discipleship is a journey of faith, hope, and love, asking us to place our trust in God's plan, even in times of uncertainty.

The first reading from the Book of Jonah presents a powerful example of God's mercy and the importance of repentance and conversion. Jonah's message to the people of Nineveh is a stark reminder that God's love and forgiveness are always available to us, no matter how far we may have strayed.

As we reflect on these readings, let's consider how we are responding to Jesus' call in our own lives. Are we ready to leave our nets, whatever they may be, and follow Him? Are we willing to be agents of God's mercy, like Jonah, bringing a message of hope and repentance to our world in need?

**Let us pray for the grace to be true disciples, carrying the light of Christ into all areas of our lives. May our journey through Ordinary Time continue to be a time of spiritual growth and deeper communion with God.**

This Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to engage more deeply with the practice of *Lectio Divina*.

As we read, meditate, pray, and contemplate the Scriptures, we are not only enriching our knowledge but are also opening our hearts to the transformative power of God's word.

### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

**First Reading** Jonah 3:1–5, 10  
*The Ninevites turned from their evil way.*

**Responsorial Psalm** Psalm 25  
*Lord, make me know your ways.*

**Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 7:29–31  
*The world in its present form is passing away.*

**Gospel Reading** Mark 1:14–20  
*Repent and believe in the Gospel.*

### THE YEAR 2024 – YEAR OF PRAYER

During this Year of Prayer, we are encouraged to engage more deeply with *Lectio Divina*. *This ancient practice offers a profound way to encounter God through His Word, making it especially relevant in a year dedicated to enriching our prayer life.* *Lectio Divina*, meaning "Divine Reading," is an ancient practice of scriptural reading, meditation, and prayer intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's word.

**PRAYER:** Heavenly Father, In this sacred Year of Prayer, we turn to You with hearts open to the ancient practice of *Lectio Divina*. This hallowed tradition, tracing back to the early Church and embraced by St. Benedict, has guided countless souls closer to Your divine presence. *We thank You for this gift, once the treasure of monks and religious, now a cherished path of prayer for all Your faithful.* As we embark on this journey of *Lectio Divina*, bless us with the grace of stillness and attentiveness. *Let each scripture passage we read become a living conversation with You. May Your words resonate deeply within us, revealing Your truths and guiding our thoughts and actions.*

Lord, as we read Your Word, let it be a lamp unto our feet. May the phrases that capture our hearts serve as divine whispers, leading us to deeper insights and understanding. In the rhythmic cadence of sacred texts, help us to discern Your voice amidst the noise of the world. In our meditation, grant us the wisdom to reflect on Your teachings with sincerity and depth. May our contemplation stir within us a profound desire to align our lives with Your will. As we respond to You in prayer, let our words be honest and our hearts sincere, pouring out our joys, our fears, and our hopes at Your feet.

Finally, in moments of silent rest, allow us to feel Your presence and hear Your gentle response. In these holy pauses, may we find strength, guidance, and peace. *Let this practice of Lectio Divina not just be an act of reading, but a transformative experience that draws us ever closer to You.* We ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son and our Teacher, who invites us to listen and follow Him. *Amen.*

### A BRIEF GUIDE TO HELP YOU ENGAGE WITH LECTIO DIVINA:

**1. Preparation:** - Find a quiet and comfortable place. - Choose a scripture passage for your reading. It can be a few verses or a longer passage. - Begin with a prayer, asking God to speak to you through His Word.

As I come before You in the sacred practice of *Lectio Divina*, I seek Your voice in the quiet of my heart. In this moment of divine reading, I yearn for the wisdom and insight that only Your Word can provide. Open my ears, O Lord, to hear Your message, and prepare my heart to receive Your truth.

**2. Lectio (READING):** - Read the chosen scripture passage slowly and attentively. - Pay attention to any word or phrase that catches your attention or speaks to your heart.

**3. Meditatio (MEDITATION):** - Reflect on the text. Ask yourself what God is saying to you through this scripture. - Consider how the message of the scripture relates to your life. - Be open to the insights and understandings that come to you.

**4. Oratio (PRAYER):** - Respond to God's word in prayer. - Express your thoughts, feelings, desires, or concerns to God. - This is a conversation with God, so be honest and open in your prayer.

**5. Contemplatio (CONTEMPLATION):** - Rest in God's presence. - This is a time of quiet and silence, allowing God to work in your heart. - You don't need to think or say anything; simply be with God.

**6. Operatio (ACTION):** - Consider any action that God might be calling you to as a response to your *Lectio Divina*. - This could be a change in attitude, a decision to take action, or a commitment to follow through on an insight you received.

**7. Conclusion:** - End your *Lectio Divina* with a prayer of thanksgiving for the insights and inspirations received. - Make a note of anything important that occurred during your session to reflect on later.

**The key is to be open and receptive to what God wants to communicate to you through His Word.**

"YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD...  
AND YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF."

Luke  
10:27

### PRAYER FOR THE UNITY OF CHRISTIANS

**Lord Jesus**, who prayed that we might all be one, we pray to you for the unity of Christians, according to your will, according to your means. May your Spirit enable us to experience the suffering caused by division, to see our sin, and to hope beyond all hope. Amen.

#### Sunday

**May we never turn away from those in need.**

*When he saw him, he passed by on the other side (Lk 10:31).*

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus Christ, As we journey with you towards unity, may our eyes not look away, but be wide open to the world. As we travel through life, may we stop and reach out, bind up the wounded and in so doing experience your presence in them: you who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen. **Prayer for the Unity of Christians:** Lord Jesus...

#### Monday

**Lord, help us see the wounds and find hope.**

*He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them (Lk 10:34).*

**Prayer:** Gracious God, You who are the source of all love and goodness: enable us to see the needs of our neighbour. Show us what we can do to bring about healing. Change us, so that we can love all our brothers and sisters. Help us to overcome the obstacles of division, that we might build a world of peace for the common good. Thank you for renewing your Creation and leading us to a future which is full of hope: you who are Lord of all, yesterday, today and forever. Amen. **Prayer for the Unity of Christians:** Lord Jesus...

#### Tuesday

**Lord, turn our churches into 'inns', to welcome those in need.**

*Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him (Lk 10:34).*

**Prayer:** Father of love, In Jesus, you showed us the meaning of hospitality, by caring for our fragile humanity. Help us to become a community that welcomes those who feel abandoned and lost, building a house where all are welcome. May we come closer to one another as we offer the world your unconditional love. This we pray in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen. **Prayer for the Unity of Christians:** Lord Jesus...

#### Wednesday

**Lord, show us how to respond to our neighbour.**

*Jesus said: "Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour?" (Lk 10:36).*

**Prayer:** Holy God, your Son Jesus Christ came among us to show us the way of compassion. Help us by your Spirit to follow his example, to serve the needs of all your children, and so give united Christian witness to your ways of love and mercy. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen. **Prayer for the Unity of Christians:** Lord Jesus...

#### Thursday

**Lord, may our fellowship be a sign of your Kingdom.**

*Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise" (Lk 10:37).*

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit, the giver of life, who makes us more open to each other, resolves conflict, and strengthens our bonds of communion. May we grow in mutual affection and in the desire to announce the Gospel message more faithfully, that the world may come together in unity and welcome the Prince of Peace. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. **Prayer for the Unity of Christians:** Lord Jesus...

### "EXPLORE" - A RETREAT FOR YOUNG WOMEN

*Thinking about a vocation to the religious life?*

Join other young Catholic women to chat and explore God's will in monthly get-togethers in Edinburgh. Led by Sr Mirjam Hagens FSO, Vocations Director for religious vocations, the first get-together takes place on Sunday 28 January, 4-7pm at St Columba's, 9 Upper Gray Street, Edinburgh. It is a chance to pray, share and discuss in a relaxed environment, and refreshments will be served. The series continues each month at the same time/venue on 25 Feb, 17 Mar, 21 Apr, 12 May, 22 June.

To register or find out more about exploring religious life, please email Sr Mirjam on [religiousvocations@staned.org.uk](mailto:religiousvocations@staned.org.uk)  
<https://archedinburgh.org/event/explore-a-retreat-for-young-women/>

### LENT WEE BOXES COLLECTION FOR SCIAF

*A Call for Your Generous Support*

As we continue to embrace the spirit of giving and community, we are thrilled to announce our participation in the Wee Boxes offering collection in support of the **Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF)**. This is a beautiful way to show our commitment to charitable giving during this season. **Mark Your Calendars: Collection Date is 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024.** *Here's how you can be a part of this meaningful cause:* **1. Collect Your Wee Box:** If you haven't yet picked up your Wee Box, they are available at the church entrance. **2. Fill Your Box Set with Donations:** Between now and the 29<sup>th</sup> of March, we encourage you to fill your Wee Box with your offerings. *Every contribution, no matter the size, counts and can make a world of difference.*

### ST. VINCENT PALLOTTI THE PROPHET OF COMMUNION

**"I will try to free myself from everything that prevents me from obtaining this treasure that God is."** - St. Vincent Pallotti



Saint Vincent Pallotti was born in Rome on April 21, 1795. From his early childhood as an altar server, Saint Vincent lived a life rooted in service to the poor and to the Church.

After his ordination to the priesthood, Saint Vincent became well known for his charitable works, mysticism, and collaboration with the laity in his ministry.

His transformative work with the laity continued in 1835 when he founded the **Union of Catholic Apostolate**, association of lay people, consecrated religious and clergy, that supported the Church's missionary efforts, revived the faith of Catholic, and did works of charity.

Before the Second Vatican Council commenced more than 100 years later, the laity was not as actively participating and collaboratively in the life and ministry of the Church. Saint Vincent wanted to inspire people of all walks of life to work constantly for God's kingdom.

Believing that all people are called to holiness and have a role as apostle in Christ's Church, Pallotti sought to revive faith and rekindle charity in every person he met. Despite desiring to be a missionary, Pallotti remained in Rome for the entirety of his priestly ministry due to his poor health. Nevertheless, Pallotti worked tirelessly to bring Catholics back into the Church at a time where secularization from governments was running rampant.

Having seen multiple Popes run out of Rome by nationalist movements, Pallotti remained steadfast in his faith in Christ and the Church, calling others to do the same whether it was in the market, in the hospital, or the confessional. Due to his belief that all the baptized are called to be apostles since they are sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation, Pallotti wanted all the faithful to go out and make disciples in their own communities.

This inspired Saint Vincent to consecrate his ministry as well as the **Union and Society of the Catholic Apostolate to Our Lady, Queen of Apostles**. This Marian title reminds us of her role—as well as the role of other unnamed disciples—in the early Church following the feast of Pentecost.

During the cholera epidemic in 1837, Pallotti ministered to the sick and provided food for the needy. Subsequently, Saint Vincent organized schools for Roman children and orphanages to care for children who lost their parents. These massive undertakings were often accomplished with people whose apostolate was to treat those in need "with care and with a loving and tender concern."

After founding the Union, Saint Vincent called the members of the **Union of Catholic Apostolate**—who included laity, sisters, priests, and brothers -- to charity, patience, humility, zeal, and love of God and of Jesus Christ. St. Vincent continued to minister to the people of Rome until he died on 22 January 1850. The legacy of his life has transcended the 1800s in Italian history and St. Vincent continues to inspire people worldwide.

*May the Charity of Christ, urge us on!*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS on 14 January 2024**

Doune: £68,20; Callander: £121,25 & Food Bank £28,90