



# 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@dunkelldioocese.org.uk](mailto:stjosephcallander@dunkelldioocese.org.uk).



## THE 11<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELECTION OF POPE FRANCIS, observed on March 13th, marks a significant milestone in the history of the Catholic Church and its leadership.



This occasion is not just a reflection on the pontificate of the first Latin American Pope but also a testament to his profound influence on the Church's direction, teachings, and global outreach.

Pope Francis, born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Argentina, was elected to the papacy on March 13, 2013, succeeding Pope Benedict XVI. His election was groundbreaking in many ways, signalling a series of firsts: the first Jesuit pope, the first pope from the Americas, and the first pope from the Southern Hemisphere.

His choice of name, Francis, after St. Francis of Assisi, reflected his deep concern for the poor and his commitment to building a church that is more open and compassionate. Over the years, Pope Francis's papacy has been characterized by a series of bold moves and significant gestures aimed at emphasizing mercy, social justice, and humility.

## MOTHER'S DAY

As we celebrate Mother's Day on the 10th of March, our parish community turns its heart and mind towards a deeper, more spiritual recognition of the pivotal role mothers play in the fabric of our faith life. This special day is not just an opportunity to honour and appreciate the maternal figures in our lives but also a sacred moment to acknowledge and give thanks for the profound spiritual legacy mothers impart.

Mothers, by God's design, are often the first to introduce us to the whispers of the Divine, teaching us how to fold our hands in prayer, guiding our first steps on the path of faith, and enveloping us in the unconditional love that mirrors the heart of God. They are the bearers of spiritual wisdom, the custodians of our first experiences of grace, and the gentle hands that sow the seeds of our religious heritage. Through their steadfast love, sacrifice, and guidance, they reflect the essence of God's nurturing presence, making visible the invisible love of our Creator.

In the sacred space of family life, mothers enact a ministry of love that is foundational to our spiritual growth. They are the architects of our first churches—the homes where we learn of compassion, forgiveness, and the boundless mercy of God. By sharing their faith, mothers forge a living link to the divine, a bond that nurtures not only their children but also enriches our entire faith community. This spiritual lineage, passed down with love and devotion, ensures that the flame of faith burns brightly from generation to generation.

As we mark this Mother's Day within our parish, let us embrace it as a holy day of thanksgiving for the gift of maternal faith-sharing. Let us pray for the mothers among us, that they may be strengthened, honoured, and celebrated not only in our words but through the love and respect we show them each day.

## A Prayer for Mother's Day

Gracious God, on this Mother's Day, we pause to reflect upon the blessings of motherhood. We offer up our heartfelt gratitude for the mothers, grandmothers, and mother figures who have nurtured our faith with their love, their sacrifices, and their unwavering belief in You. Bless them with Your grace, envelop them in Your peace, and shine Your light upon their path. May they feel the depth of our appreciation and love on this special day and always. Inspire us to cherish and support them, reflecting the love they have shown us by living lives of faith, hope, and charity. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*May this Mother's Day deepen our appreciation for the sacred role of mothers in our spiritual journey and inspire us to cherish the gift of faith they have lovingly shared.*



## THE EPISCOPAL ORDINATION

The date has now been confirmed for the Episcopal Ordination of our Bishop Elect

## Father Martin Chambers

It will take place in St. Andrew's Cathedral on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 11.00am.



## Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

**MARCH INTENTION:** We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING** 2 Chron. 36: 14-16, 19-23  
"They ridiculed the prophets of God, until at last his wrath rose so high, there was no remedy."

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps. 137  
"O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not."

**SECOND READING** Eph. 2: 4-10  
"When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life."

**GOSPEL** Jn. 3: 14-21  
"God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son."

## DUNDEE BRANCH WITH DUNKELD DIOCESE

Invites you to an Afternoon for Life.

Marriage, Family and Life Office President, Bishop John Keenan.

Scottish Family Party Leader, Richard Lucas.

Our Duty of Care, Dr Gillian Wright

Saturday 16th March, 1pm to 4.30pm.

Our Lady of Victories, Forebank Road (bottom hall).

Tea and coffee from 12.30pm

A chance to catch up with pro-life friends.

Creche places possibly available. Booking not essential.

Please come along for all or part of the afternoon.

For further information: [mcgraw.clare@gmail.com](mailto:mcgraw.clare@gmail.com) or 07752527696

## OUR PRAYER FOR LIFE

**10<sup>th</sup> March** - Let us pray for new parents and grandparents, that they may manifest the love and mercy of God to their children and grandchildren. Lord, hear us.



## THE SHIELD OF ST. PATRICK

Christ be with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ within me Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ where I lie, Christ where I sit, Christ where I arise, Christ in the heart of every one who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of every one who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me. Salvation is of the Lord. Salvation is of the Christ. May your salvation Lord, be ever with us. *Amen.*



## THE YEAR 2024 – YEAR OF PRAYER

### The Fourth Week of Lent: March 10-16, 2024

This week of Lent is an important time for us to ask ourselves if there are any parts of our hearts, any of our patterns, that oppose Jesus and his desire to give us life. This kind of honesty can transform our lives. It can allow the grace of God to bring reconciliation and healing we might not have imagined.

Even if it hasn't been easy to get really engaged with Lent so far, we can still make a beginning, even now. The keys are openness and desire. If we can feel any attraction, any sign that the Lord is possibly drawing us, then the Lord can work with us - no matter what resistance or fear we might also be experiencing.

**We could try a different approach to facing any resistance we might have to the Lord's working in us.** We might not commit the big sins, but we may not have examined what we fail to do. Who am I failing to love, to forgive, to be generous to? From whom am I withholding affection, care, reconciliation? Where can I live more honestly, with more integrity? How might I proactively change my own personal patterns of escape with patterns of care for others? **It is incredible grace when we are drawn to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.**

*This week, let us give thanks to the Lord who deeply desires our greater freedom and joy. As we go to bed each night, let us thank the Lord for what we saw that day and renew our desires for the next day of grace.*

## NOVENA PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH (10-19 March)



This novena to St. Joseph requests divine assistance from someone close to our Lord, quite close indeed: His foster-father! St. Joseph has inspired the faithful for generations as a model of humility and service as a carpenter caring for his Holy Family.

**Glorious St. Joseph, foster-father, and protector of Jesus Christ!** To you do I raise my heart and hands to implore your powerful intercession. Please obtain for me from the kind Heart of Jesus the help and graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare. I ask particularly for the grace of a happy death, and the special favour I now implore.

Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel animated with confidence that your prayers in my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God.

– **O glorious St. Joseph, through the love you bear to Jesus Christ, and for the glory of His name, hear my prayers and obtain my petitions.**

**MEMORARE:** Remember, most pure spouse of Mary, ever Virgin, my loving protector, Saint Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection or asked for your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding, therefore, in your goodness, I come before you and humbly implore you. Despise not my petitions, foster-father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.

## BISHOP BRIAN MCGEE'S LETTER FOR SCIAF SUNDAY



### My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I write on this fourth Sunday of Lent on behalf of all the Bishops of Scotland, to thank you for your generous support of the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund, our relief and development agency of the Church. Your prayers, your donations, and your gifts of time through volunteering continue to encourage the Bishops, and of course, make possible the life-transforming work of SCIAF.

With your support, SCIAF continues to stand in solidarity with the people we serve - and especially today, on this SCIAF Sunday.

It is a huge honour to be SCIAF's Bishop President and to play a role in the direction we move in after nearly 60 years of helping to support the poorest communities around the world.

We are part of the global Catholic Church and believe it to be our duty and our privilege to respond to the cry of the poor. Working with our Church partners all over the world, we help people help themselves out of poverty, and campaign for a world where everyone, everywhere has the basics they need to survive and thrive. We, the Church, are one body with many parts, all working together to put our faith into action. Serving the poor is absolutely at the heart of what it means to be a Catholic.



### This year's WEE BOX Lenten appeal brings our attention to the country of Rwanda.

A beautiful country known as 'the land of a thousand hills.' But also, a country with great suffering and trauma, much of this following on from the horrors of the genocide 30 years ago - a time where it is estimated that one million people were killed.

SCIAF has been supporting projects in Rwanda for many years and has a close relationship with the Catholic Church there. We recently spoke to **Cardinal Kambanda**, Archbishop of Kigali, who wants to share the following with you. *He says: "It's now 30 years since the genocide - a very difficult period in the history of Rwanda where so many people were killed. The war, the exile, the genocide. It left so many injured people physically, psychologically, and spiritually. It left a lot of division.*



*"We have neighbours, some of them perpetrators; others are survivors of the genocide, who live side by side. It has been a long period of reconciliation, but we thank God that this process has gone well so far.*

*"A great part of the community is now reconciled, and people work together and live together with common purpose. But also, the genocide has left internal injuries wounds that require healing from the trauma that both young and old experienced. We are dealing with many challenges.*

*"The Catholic Church has contributed a lot because it has an integral approach. So many structures were destroyed, and schools and hospitals needed to be rebuilt. The Church helps with this hand-in-hand with partners, including the Anglican Church.*

*"But the Church has got another important role, that of internal healing. Such internal healing can only be done efficiently with The Religious, and through making peace with God and with oneself.*

*"SCIAF has been a partner for many years. They accompany us. This process of reconciliation - training the community, and through counselling - is helping different groups come together.*

*"Current education projects are supporting the prevention of violence and preparing Rwanda for a peaceful future. This prepares children to be peacemakers and to build peaceful families tomorrow.*

*"Our history, however, continues to impact violent acts, especially those directed towards women and girls, despite efforts to promote harmony and peace.*

*"We are very grateful to SCIAF for all these years, for what we do together in Jesus' name. We thank all the people who support SCIAF."*



I thank Cardinal Kambanda for his words and for the work he is leading in Rwanda.

Your donations make a real difference to the people SCIAF serve. By giving in today's collection, and filling your WEE BOXES, together as the Church, we play a vital role in reaching out and showing compassion to our sisters and brothers in Rwanda - and in other countries where SCIAF partners with the Church.

As we look forward to the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus, let us stand in solidarity through prayer and in the generosity of our giving. *God Bless you and your families during this Holy Season of Lent.*

### Bishop Brian McGee

*Bishop President of SCIAF*

*On behalf of the Bishop's Conference of Scotland*



### THANK YOU FOR YOUR LAST WEEK DONATIONS

**Doune: £89.10 & Callander: £136.10**

**Doune: CAF voucher £300.00; Callander for Food Bank: £47.84**

**Next second collection will be on 29<sup>th</sup> March for Holy Places.**