



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.

THIRD EASTER SUNDAY – 14 April 2024

Dear Parishioners,

As we immerse ourselves in the joy and reflection that the Easter season brings, it is a time for us to remember the unique encounters the disciples had with the Risen Christ.

These encounters, diverse in their nature and profound in their impact, are recounted to us as testament to the transformative power of the Resurrection. The disciples saw, felt, and believed in the Risen Lord under different circumstances, each experience bringing them closer to understanding the true essence of Christ's victory over death. In a similar spirit, we are invited to ponder the significance of the Resurrection in our own lives.

How do we encounter the Risen Christ today?

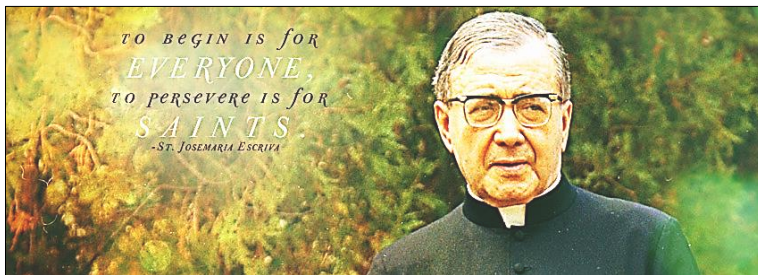
The beauty of our faith lies in the multitude of ways through which Jesus makes Himself present to us, especially when we gather as a Church.

It is in our coming together that we find strength and grace, recognizing Christ's presence among us: in the faces of our fellow parishioners, in the dedication of our lay people, in the sacred scriptures, in the solemn offering of the Holy Sacrifice, and in the breaking of the Eucharist.

This Eastertide, let us commit ourselves to a deeper contemplation of these holy mysteries. May our hearts be open to seeing, feeling, and embracing the presence of the Risen Lord in all aspects of our parish worship and in the quiet moments of our personal prayer.

Let us pray for the grace to discern more clearly the Lord presence in our midst, remembering Saint's Paul teaching: "If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord."

Fr. Leszek



"I will only stir your memory, so that some thought will arise and strike you; and so, you will better your life and set out along ways of prayer and of Love. And in the end, you will be a more worthy soul."

The Way, Saint Josemaría Escrivá

To truly live and act as a child of God amidst the world involves a journey that encompasses personal character development, prayer, work, virtue, and apostolate. Each aspect is interlinked, creating a whole approach to embodying one's faith in daily life.

Personal Character: The foundation of a Christian life is personal character, marked by integrity, humility, and love. It begins with a deep internalization of one's identity as a beloved child of God, reflecting His love in interactions with others. Personal character is shaped by the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Developing these traits allows one to mirror Christ in everyday situations, setting the stage for a life lived in accordance with God's will.

Prayer: Prayer is the lifeline of the Christian life, a means through which one cultivates a personal relationship with God. It involves both speaking and listening, allowing for guidance, strength, and comfort from the Holy Spirit. Regular prayer, whether through personal meditation, reading scripture, or corporate worship, nurtures faith and aligns one's will with God's. It is through prayer that one finds the grace to navigate life's challenges and the inspiration to live out one's vocation.

Work: Work is not merely a means to an end but a form of service to God and neighbour. Approaching work with diligence, excellence, and a spirit of cooperation reflects the Christian calling to stewardship and love. By seeing work as a divine calling, Christians can transform their tasks into offerings to God, contributing to the common good and sanctifying daily life.

Virtue: Living a virtuous life is central to being a child of God. Virtues such as faith, hope, charity, justice, prudence, temperance, and courage are essential markers of Christian life. These virtues guide moral conduct, decision-making, and interactions with others, fostering a character that is consistent with the teachings of Christ. Cultivating virtue requires ongoing effort, self-examination, and reliance on God's grace.

Apostolate: The apostolate, or Christian mission, involves sharing the love and truth of the Gospel through word and deed. This could manifest in evangelization, acts of service, advocacy for justice, or simply living out one's faith authentically in everyday life. Engaging in the apostolate means recognizing one's unique role in God's plan and participating in the mission of the Church to bring about the Kingdom of God on earth.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF BISHOP ELECT MARTIN CHAMBERS (aged 59)



With heavy hearts, we share the news of the untimely passing of Bishop Elect Martin Chambers, who departed peacefully in his sleep on the eve of April 10, 2024.

This comes as a profound loss not only to his immediate family but to our entire diocesan family and beyond.

Although many within our community had yet to meet Bishop Elect Martin personally, his dedication to the Church had already begun to touch our hearts. His commitment to faith, compassion, and service was evident to all who had the pleasure of knowing him, even in the briefest of encounters.

In light of this unexpected loss, we find ourselves mourning not just the man Martin was but also the promise and potential of his future leadership. It's a time of profound reflection for our parish, as we contemplate the guidance and inspiration we were so eagerly anticipating.

Details of the memorial service will be shared in the coming days. We invite everyone to join in this solemn occasion, to pay tribute to a remarkable soul whose life, though cut short, was a beacon of faith, hope, and love.

In these trying times, may we draw strength from each other and from the unwavering faith that Martin himself exemplified. Let us pray for his peaceful repose and for comfort to his grieving family and all who knew him.

May his soul, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. May his family and loved ones find consolation in the Risen Lord and in the love of family and friends.

PRIESTLY BLESSING (Numbers 6:24-26)

The famous blessing from is often used in the liturgy and in the spiritual life of many Christian traditions. *It reads as follows:* "May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord shine his face upon you and may he have mercy on you. May the Lord turn his face toward you and may he give you peace."

MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU:

- "**May the Lord bless you and keep you.**" This phrase expresses the request that God bestow his blessing on a person, which in the biblical context means not only material well-being, but above all spiritual well-being, grace, care, and the presence of God in the life of a person.

- "**and let him guard you**" – this part of the verse adds a dimension of protection. The request for God's protection alludes to the desire to be safe from evil, danger, and harm. In the biblical context, God's watchful eye is understood as watchful care, which encompasses both the physical and spiritual aspects of life.

MAY THE LORD SHINE HIS FACE UPON YOU AND HAVE MERCY ON YOU:

- "**May the Lord shine his face upon you**" – this phrase is a metaphor that describes God's grace and favour. The brightening of the countenance symbolizes God's closeness, His positive, gracious attitude, as well as the abundance of graces and blessings flowing from Him.

- "**and may you have mercy**" – here the request is about God's mercy, which means readiness to forgive, compassion and treat kindly, despite human weaknesses and mistakes. This phrase emphasizes God's willingness to be kind and forgiving.

MAY THE LORD TURN HIS FACE TOWARD YOU AND GIVE YOU PEACE:

- "**May the Lord turn his face toward you**" – like the previous phrase about brightening the face, this phrase speaks of God's favourable gaze, which is a source of protection and grace. Turning one's face towards someone is a gesture of intimacy, commitment and personal care.

- "**and may he give you peace**" – peace, in the biblical context, is one of the deepest blessings. It includes not only the absence of conflict or war, but also fullness of well-being, harmony, security, and spiritual contentment. This blessing of peace is the culmination of a request for God's blessing, concluding the blessing with a vision of the complete, all-encompassing prosperity that God desires for man.



THE LADIES AFTERNOON TEA

As we look back on the Ladies Day event. I am moved to extend our heartfelt gratitude for the exceptional effort and dedication you all demonstrated in preparing this memorable occasion.

Thirteen ladies from our parish went to The Roman Camp Hotel in Callander last Saturday for afternoon tea. Everyone had a fabulous afternoon chatting, laughing and getting to spend quality time together. We had Irish Bingo - Trish won a beautiful bunch of flowers! Later, we had a free raffle with eight Pamper Gift Bag prizes. Our winners were: Helena, Moira, Frances, Connie, Susan, Bernice, Anne and Pat.

May you all be blessed for your generosity and spirit of service. Please accept our deepest appreciation for your hard work, creativity, and unwavering support of our parish community. It is through the dedication of volunteers like you that we are able to foster a vibrant and engaged community. *We now look forward to planning our next Parish social event.*

We look forward to the wonderful initiatives that will emerge from the ideas shared during this special day.

DUNKELD LOURDES SERVICE – CHARITY AUCTION

As part of our fundraising effort, we are holding a silent auction for two excellent experiences. **Firstly a 4-Ball at Royal Troon with snacks beforehand and a meal afterwards. Secondly a four people package for Destiny Race Day at Perth Races.**

The auction lots will be open at the Dunkeld Lourdes Service Ball on Saturday 27 April 2024, bids will be accepted up until then. For further information please contact dunkeld@pobox.com or phone 07801 227 443.



61st WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Pope Francis's message emphasizes the Christian journey as one of hope, synodality, and a collective quest for peace and love under God's guidance. Set against the backdrop of the theme "Called to Sow Seeds of Hope and to Build Peace," the Pope's reflections invite Christians to ground their lives in the resurrection of Christ.

Celebrated on April 21 this year, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations calls upon the faithful to anticipate their ultimate calling every day.

This anticipation is seen as a step towards realizing God's vision of a united human family characterized by love, cooperation, and brotherhood.

The Pope underscores the synodal nature of this journey, highlighting the Church's diversity of charisms and vocations as a strength that facilitates mutual listening and collaborative progress.

The 2025 Jubilee Year's theme, "Pilgrims of Hope," further aligns with Pope Francis's vision of the Christian pilgrimage as a transformative and regenerative journey. By emphasizing the importance of carrying only what is essential and shedding all forms of weariness and fear, the Pope invites the faithful to discover God's love anew each day.

This journey, marked by continual beginning and the pursuit of new horizons, is also a process of self-discovery enriched by community and relationships.

Pope Francis's message resonates with a call to action for today's youth, especially those who may feel disconnected or wary of the Church. He encourages them to engage with Christ and allow His presence to inspire a transformative exploration of their questions and freedoms. This dialogue with Christ is portrayed as a pathway to happiness and, potentially, a complete dedication to Him.

Next week, we will publish the text of this message.

PRAYERS FOR VOCATIONS

They serve to remind us of the importance of discerning and following God's call in our lives.

Prayer for Discernment

Lord, I know you love me and have great plans for me. But sometimes I am overwhelmed by the thought of my future. Show me how to walk forward one day at a time. May I take heart while I search openly, learn about, and pray about my vocation. Help me to trust that you will reveal it to me in your time. Amen.

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood

Heavenly Father, your divine Son taught us to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into His vineyard. We earnestly beg you to bless our diocese and the world with many priests who will love you fervently and gladly and courageously spend their lives in service to your Son's Church, especially the poor and needy. Give them the grace to inspire others to dedicate their lives to your service. Amen.

Prayer for Religious Vocations

O God, who has chosen the apostles to make disciples of all nations, and who by baptism and confirmation has called all of us to build up

your Holy Church, we earnestly implore you to choose from among us, your children, many priests, brothers, and sisters who will love you with their whole heart and will gladly spend their entire lives to make you known and loved by all. Amen.

Prayer for Lay Ministries

Gracious and Loving God, we thank you for the gift of our vocations. With your guidance, we serve your Church in the unique ways you have called us. Empower us to support one another, to be examples of your love, and to use our talents and abilities to spread your Gospel. Help all lay ministers to serve with joy and dedication, and may they be a source of inspiration for others to follow their own callings. Amen.

CELEBRATING 91 YEARS OF GRACE: HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JOHN!



In the heart of our parish community, there lies a remarkable story of faith and devotion—a story that has been unfolding for 91 incredible years, thanks to our beloved parishioner, **John O'Kane. This past Thursday, John stepped into his 91st year of life, a milestone that fills us with awe and gratitude.**

John's journey through the years is a vivid testament to the power of faith and the strength of the human spirit, guided by the light of our Lord. His life, rich with experiences and adorned with grace, serves as an inspiration to us all, reminding us of the enduring love and mercy of Jesus Christ.

As we celebrate this special occasion, we wish to extend to John our deepest, most heartfelt wishes. **"May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; may the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace"** (Numbers 6:24-26). These words from Scripture capture our prayer for John as he embarks on another year of life, enriched by the Lord's blessings and surrounded by the love of his parish family.

John's life beautifully echoes the promise found in **Psalm 91:16**, *"With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."* It is a life marked by unwavering faith, boundless hope, and unconditional love—the very essence of a life lived in Christ.

As we acknowledge this joyful occasion in our parish newsletter, let us take a moment to celebrate John, not just for the years he has lived, but for the profound impact he continues to have on our community. May this 91st birthday be a reflection of the blessings he has known and a harbinger of the joyful moments yet to come.

John, you are a treasure to us all, a living example of God's love in action. May this year be filled with health, happiness, and the continued warmth of God's love enveloping you each day.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Family life is strengthened through storytelling and shared mealtimes. In a similar way, Christian life is sustained by God's word in Scripture and by Christ's presence in the Eucharist. We are especially sustained in our faith through our weekly celebration of Mass. Today's Gospel reading reminds us that the Scripture and the Eucharist are given to us so that our acts of bearing witness to Christ might be strengthened.

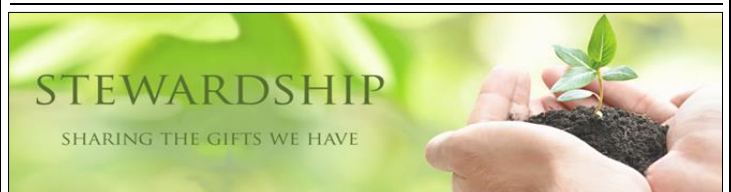
As you gather as a family, ask each person to share their favorite story about your family. Talk about the importance of these memories about your family life and the importance of the meals you have shared together as a family. Recall that these stories and meals strengthen the love you share. In a similar way, our Christian life is strengthened by sharing God's Word and the Eucharist at Mass. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 24:35-48. Discuss the mission that Jesus gave to his disciples after their shared meal.

The Eucharist also sends us to be Christ's witnesses in the world today. Conclude by praying together that we will be strengthened by God's word and by Jesus' presence in the Eucharist to be witnesses to Christ. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 4.

PRAYER FOR LIFE

14th (3rd Sunday of Easter) - On Monday, we celebrated the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord, the day we commemorate when the Lord Jesus took on human flesh and Our Lady said "Yes" to God.

We pray for pregnant women who feel they are facing a difficult decision. We ask that they may be given hope, filled with the love of God, and guided away from a course of despair and onto one of love and acceptance of the gift of life. Lord hear us.



How do I sense Jesus' presence in my life?
When do I feel a sense of peace in my heart?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LAST WEEK DONATIONS

Doune – Parish coll. £37.07; SCIAF Wee Boxes: £45.82
Callander – Parish coll. £113.20 & Food Bank: £58.16
SCIAF Wee Boxes: £167.39