



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 July 2024 – SIXTEEN SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dear Parishioners,

As we entered the month of July, we reflect on Pope Francis' special intention for this month: For the Pastoral Care of the Sick. In our community, we recognize the importance of offering comfort, support, and spiritual care to those who are ill. This is not just a mission for the clergy but a calling for each one of us.

We are reminded of the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:36, "I was sick, and you looked after me." These words challenge us to embody compassion and kindness, reaching out to those in our community who are suffering. Whether through prayer, a kind word, or a simple act of service, we all have a role to play in the pastoral care of the sick.

In honour of this important intention, we invite you to a special Mass on Thursday, July 25th at 10.00am here in Callander. This Mass will be dedicated to all those who are sick and in need of our prayers. Following the Mass, there will be a reception for the Sacrament of the Sick, offering a special moment of grace and healing for those in need.

We encourage all parishioners to attend and to invite anyone who might benefit from this special service. Let us come together as a community, united in faith and compassion, to support and uplift those who are facing health challenges.

May this month be a time of renewed commitment to caring for the sick and a reminder of the strength and solace that our faith community can provide.

Blessings, Fr Les

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS & THE ELDERLY

The National Commission for Marriage, Family and Life will mark this day on Sunday 28th July 2024 at Carfin Grotto with Mass at 3pm, celebrated by the commission's president Bishop John Keenan.

The café will be open for refreshments.

Please come along and enjoy this inter-generational day together.

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FAMILY CONNECTION

Family demands can make us feel like Jesus and the twelve apostles. We wish for times of relaxation and renewal, but there are errands to do, household chores to keep up with, volunteer commitments to keep. These are all good things, but we can be left feeling drained and tired as we try to keep up.

Perhaps we might take the opportunity this week to give ourselves permission to find the rest and relaxation that Jesus seeks for his disciples in today's Gospel.

One of the gifts we can give to one another in our family life is assistance in finding the time and space to renew ourselves through prayer. When you gather together as a family this week, bring your family calendar. *Together review your family calendar and spend some time reflecting on your family activities.*

In particular, ask if your family has an appropriate amount of time for rest and relaxation. If not, discuss ways in which this time for renewal might be included in the week ahead. Read together today's Gospel, Mark 6:30-34.

Notice how Jesus tried to find time and space for his disciples to rest and relax after they returned from their mission.

Conclude in prayer together, asking God to help us find time to renew ourselves so that we might be better disciples of Jesus. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

On coming Sunday, July 28, Catholics globally will be encouraged to reflect on the valuable heritage and wisdom passed down by grandparents and the elderly.

Pope Francis has announced the theme for his message for the 2024 World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly:

"Do not cast me off in my old age".

This theme is drawn from Psalm 71:9 and aims to highlight the issue of loneliness among the elderly.

The 2024 World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly is intricately set within the context of the Year of Prayer, an initiative launched by Pope Francis to prepare the faithful for the 2025 Jubilee. This initiative highlights the significance of prayer in fostering a deeper spiritual connection and readiness for the upcoming Jubilee.

Pope Francis has long emphasized the importance of grandparents and the elderly, recognizing their vital role in transmitting faith, values, and traditions to younger generations. The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, established by the Pope, underscores this recognition, celebrating the contributions of the elderly and promoting intergenerational solidarity.

In the Year of Prayer, which serves as a spiritual prelude to the 2025 Jubilee, the focus is on encouraging prayerful reflection and communal prayer practices. This year-long emphasis aims to rejuvenate the spiritual lives of the faithful, fostering a renewed sense of commitment and devotion.

The integration of the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly within this Year of Prayer is significant. It serves as a reminder of the power of intercessory prayer and the spiritual wisdom of the elderly. This alignment invites the faithful to honour their elders through prayer, seeking their guidance and blessings as the Church prepares for the Jubilee.

WEEKDAY MASS

During the month of July the parish weekday masses will be on Tuesday and Thursday, 10am in St Josephs, Callander. Work is being planned to update the lighting in Doune during the month which will involve scaffolding being erected. Doune will still be available for services if required during the week.

PRAYER FOR BISHOP-ELECT ANDREW MCKENZIE

Prayer for Protection

Dear Lord, protect Bishop-Elect Andrew McKenzie from any harm or evil. Surround him with Your angels and shield him with Your divine protection as he serves Your church. Guard him against all dangers, both seen and unseen, and grant him the assurance of Your constant presence. *May Your holy angels watch over him, keeping him safe from all forms of attack and guiding him away from any path that leads to harm.* Strengthen his spirit to withstand any trials, and let Your light shine upon him, dispelling any darkness that may try to encroach upon his mission. Fill him with peace and confidence, knowing that You are his refuge and fortress. As he carries out his duties, may he do so with a fearless heart, fully trusting in Your mighty protection. We ask this in the powerful name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. *Amen.*



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

JULY 2024 INTENTION: For the Pastoral Care of The Sick

While only priests can administer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, each of us can still play a vital role. We can pray for those who are ill by name, visit or call them, prepare a meal, or send a card of encouragement. Even if we don't know anyone personally who is ill at the moment, there are certainly members of our parish whose day could be brightened by a *simple visit or phone call.*

Let us use this month to pray for the sick, for those who care for them, and for the wisdom to know how we can be present for those who are suffering. Together, we can bring the light of Christ to them and show them they are not alone.

MONTHLY PRAYER

All-merciful Father, What a great mystery, the fragility of the body, the sickness that weakens us! How often we want to escape from this pain because we do not want to suffer or see suffering!

We know that nothing makes sense without you, and that everything can be an occasion of grace, if it is with You. That is why, Lord, in the midst of sickness we want to be signs of compassion bringing strength to our brothers and sisters, with the grace of the anointing of the sick.

We ask that your Holy Spirit renew in your entire Church and in our hearts, the profound meaning of this sacrament; so that we may accept it as a gift and task in the care of those who are sick, so that they may attain the peace and healing that you grant them. *Amen.*

HOLY MASS WITH THE RECEPTION of SACRAMENT OF SICK

You're invited to join us in Callander for a special Mass dedicated to Pope Francis' July 2024 intention: For the Pastoral Care of the Sick. The Mass will be held on Thursday, July 25th at 10.00am, followed by a reception for the Sacrament of the Sick.

We look forward to your presence and participation.

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PRAYER FOR LIFE



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.*

ANNUAL SEAFARERS' AND FISHERS' APPEAL

The important, but often forgotten, ministry.



STELLA MARIS

These brave men and women are the unseen backbone of our global economy, working tirelessly to bring us goods and resources that we need.

They spend months away from their families, facing isolation, loneliness, challenging conditions, and sometimes extreme danger. This is especially true of those currently working in the Black and Red Seas due to the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East.

Imagine leaving your family behind, signing on for a job at sea, and finding yourself at risk of missiles, drone attacks, and piracy. This is the harsh reality for many seafarers working on these vital trade routes.

Seafarers in these conflict zones are often scared, witnessing destruction first-hand. Security concerns frequently prevent them from going ashore, adding loneliness and anxiety to an already stressful situation.

This is where Stella Maris (*formerly known as Apostleship of the Sea*), the official maritime charity of the Catholic Church, steps in. They support seafarers and fishers in the UK and around the world. Their dedicated chaplains are a lifeline for mariners. They offer a listening ear and much-needed spiritual support. They bring food parcels, offer Wi-Fi so seafarers can call home, and provide hardship grants and access to mental health counselling.

We are reminded of the importance of welcoming the stranger. This is needed more than ever for seafarers today. Imagine the relief they feel when they see a friendly face coming onboard, someone to talk to, someone who cares.

Stella Maris' ship visits are only possible because of your support. Your generosity helps their chaplains and volunteers to assist 125,000 seafarers in UK ports and to reach up to 70,000 ships worldwide per year.

Having welcomed the Word of God in faith, let us offer our prayers to God.

- Let us ask God to protect all seafarers and fishers, who work hard on the perilous sea, to bring us so many of the goods that we rely on in our daily lives. May they always feel the loving embrace of our Heavenly Father. Lord hear us. - Lord graciously hear us.
- Let us pray for seafarers affected by conflict. Especially for those in the Black and Red Seas impacted by the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. That they may be protected during their work. Lord hear us. - Lord graciously hear us.

Father, in your mercy, accept the prayers we make for ourselves and our neighbours, especially those who work at sea. We make our prayer through Christ, our harbour of peace. *Amen.*

The Second Collection

Your generous contribution will help this work to continue and grow. It will be an expression of God's love, helping to welcome seafarers and fishers who are strangers in these lands.

Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. You can donate in church, by visiting www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate, or by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5.

Thank you for your support and prayers, Stella Maris would not be able to carry out this important ministry on behalf of the Church.

This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work, so please give generously.

Thank you.