



PARISH NEWSLETTER

St. Joseph's Church (Callander) and St Fillan's and St Alphonsus' Church (Doune).

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 house-bound and vulnerable, please contact Fr. Les by phone at 01877 330 702 or by email at stjosephcallander@dunkelddiocese.org.uk.

24 November 2024

THIRTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)



Dear Parishioners,

As we celebrate the final Sunday of the liturgical year, we're invited to reflect on the kingship of Christ, a reign unlike any other.

This feast reminds us of Jesus, the humble servant who washed His disciples' feet and embraced the cross, is the true King of all creation. His kingdom, as He tells Pilate in this Sunday's Gospel, is "not of this world," for it is built not on power or dominance but on love, truth, and sacrifice.

The kingship of Christ offers a vision of hope and purpose. Christ calls each of us to live as members of His kingdom, marked by compassion, humility, and a commitment to justice. In our daily lives, we are encouraged to reflect His light in our words and actions, bearing witness to His reign of peace and mercy.

As we move from Ordinary Time into Advent, let us ask ourselves:

- How are we responding to Christ's invitation to live as His followers?
- Do we seek to bring His message into our relationships, work, and community?
- This Sunday reminds us that Christ's kingship is not simply a distant promise but a present reality, one that transforms how we view ourselves and the world around us.

Let us joyfully proclaim, as a parish family, **"Christ is our King!"** May we carry this conviction with us as we prepare to welcome Him anew in Advent.

May our lives reflect His reign, and may we spread His kingdom of love wherever we go.

Fr. Les

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS



With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of the late **Margaret (Peggy) O'Donnell**, who passed away at the age of 97 on November 20, 2024, at her home. *Peggy was born on June 19, 1927, and was a beloved figure to her family, friends and St Joseph's Parish.*

PLEASE JOIN US

We invite you to join us for an evening prayer in the presence of Peggy's body. This will take place during the **Reception of Remains on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 6.00pm at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Callander.**

Let us come together in prayer to honour her life and commend her soul to God's loving care.

Funeral Mass: Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 10.00am, St. Joseph's Church, Callander.

Burial: Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 11.15am, Callander Cemetery.

We join in prayer with Margaret's family and loved ones, asking God for eternal rest for her soul.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. Amen.

"Lord, Teach Us To Pray"

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

THY KINGDOM COME.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. *Amen.*



THANK YOU: We express our recognition to **Liz Hunter (Callander)**, and **Peppy Swift (Doune)** for sharing with our community the significance of Catholic education in our diocese. *Today, 24th November there will be a second collection for the Catholic Education Service. Thank you.*

HEART OF CHRISTIAN PRAYER

The Our Father prayer is the heart of Christian prayer, as *St. Augustine* said. It's a model for all our petitions, as every word we pray rightly should reflect its spirit. Jesus gave this prayer as a summary of the Gospel itself, teaching us a relationship with God grounded in love, trust, and the desire to do His will.

This prayer brings us, the faithful, into the presence of the Holy Spirit, who guides and gives life.



The phrase **"Thy Kingdom Come"** in the Our Father prayer is a powerful invocation for the realization of God's reign over our lives and the world.

When we pray these words, we express a deep desire for God's presence and rule to be fully realized, both now and in the future. It calls us to hope and actively work for a world transformed by God's justice, mercy, and peace.

— **A Call for Transformation:** "Thy Kingdom Come" is an invitation for God to transform our world. We are asking for a kingdom where God's values—love, compassion, and truth—are fully embraced.

It's a vision for a reality shaped by the Gospel, where each person experiences dignity, justice, and peace.

— **An Inner Renewal:** Praying for God's Kingdom also calls for transformation within us. It's a prayer that we may grow in alignment with God's will, reflecting His kingdom in our hearts and actions. We ask that His kingdom begins in us, influencing our choices, relationships, and sense of purpose.

— **A Hope for the Future:** "Thy Kingdom Come" looks forward to the day when God's kingdom will be fully realized at the end of time. It is a reminder of the Christian hope for the ultimate victory of God over all darkness, pain, and division.

This hope gives us courage and resilience in the face of life's trials, knowing that God's love and goodness will have the final word.

— **A Call to Action:** By praying these words, we commit ourselves to be instruments of God's kingdom. We recognize our responsibility to live out our faith in practical ways—to care for those in need, to promote peace, and to act with integrity.

This prayer empowers us to be active participants in bringing about God's kingdom here on earth.

"Thy Kingdom Come" is a profound expression of trust in God's vision for the world, inspiring us to live with hope, purpose, and a commitment to building a community that reflects His love and truth.

THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL DOCUMENTS



GAUDIUM ET SPES

Gaudium et Spes ("Joy and Hope") is one of the most significant documents of the Second Vatican Council because it addresses the Church's relationship with the modern world. *It speaks to social, political, economic, and cultural issues, and outlines the role of the Church in the contemporary context.*

https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

1. The Church in the Modern World: — *Gaudium et Spes* emphasizes the Church's solidarity with the entire human family, especially in its joys, hopes, griefs, and anxieties. The Church is called to engage with the world, not in isolation, but by recognizing its responsibility to help solve the problems of humanity.

— The document encourages the Church to listen to the signs of the times and discern how to best respond to contemporary challenges while remaining faithful to the Gospel.

2. Human Dignity: — A key theme of the document is the dignity of the human person. Every human being is made in the image and likeness of God and has inherent dignity that must be respected. This respect includes issues of life, such as opposing abortion, euthanasia, and any form of exploitation or discrimination.

— The document highlights that human dignity is best preserved through the protection of basic rights such as freedom, education, and access to a decent standard of living.

3. Marriage and Family: — *Gaudium et Spes* places a strong emphasis on the importance of marriage and family. The family is described as the "domestic Church" and the foundation of society. It upholds the sanctity of marriage and calls for couples to live out their commitment in love and fidelity.

— It also discusses responsible parenthood and the role of the family in transmitting values, nurturing faith, and fostering love and service to others.

4. Social Justice and the Common Good: — The document calls for the Church and all Christians to work for social justice, emphasizing the need to care for the poor, oppressed, and marginalized. It teaches that economic and political systems should serve the common good rather than individual interests.

— The Church encourages solidarity, meaning that everyone should work together to create a more just and equitable world. The document calls for efforts to eliminate poverty, injustice, and inequality.

5. Peace and the Avoidance of War: — *Gaudium et Spes* advocates for peace and condemns the arms race and the use of nuclear weapons. The Church is called to be a peacemaker, promoting dialogue, diplomacy, and cooperation between nations.

— War should only be a last resort, and even then, the means used must respect human dignity and international law. The goal should always be the promotion of lasting peace and reconciliation.

6. The Role of the Church in the World: — The Church is not separate from the world but is deeply connected to it. *Gaudium et Spes* encourages Catholics to actively participate in society, particularly in areas like politics, economics, education, and culture, to promote justice and human flourishing.

— The Church is called to be a beacon of hope, witnessing to Christ's love in every aspect of society. This includes being a moral voice in areas like labour rights, social welfare, and healthcare.

7. The Importance of Science and Culture: — The document acknowledges the value of scientific progress and cultural development, seeing them as gifts from God that can contribute to human well-being. However, it stresses that science and technology must be used responsibly, always serving the human person and the common good.

— *Gaudium et Spes* encourages dialogue between the Church and the scientific community, ensuring that ethical concerns guide technological advancements.

8. The Church's Role in Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue: — The document calls for greater unity among Christians and promotes dialogue with other religions. It encourages mutual understanding and respect, recognizing the shared search for truth, peace, and justice.

— This ecumenical and interreligious dialogue aims to build bridges of understanding, recognizing the dignity of all people and their sincere desire for God.

9. The Call to Holiness and Mission: — Finally, *Gaudium et Spes* reminds the faithful of their mission to be Christ's witnesses in the world. Every Catholic is called to holiness and to engage with the world in a way that reflects the Gospel. This involves bringing Christ's love and compassion into every human activity and relationship.

THE CHALLENGES THE PARISH COMMUNITY:

— **Engage with the wider world:** The Church is not removed from society but is called to respond to the needs and challenges of the modern world.

— **Promote human dignity and social justice:** This means standing up for the vulnerable, advocating for peace, and working for the common good in every sphere of life.

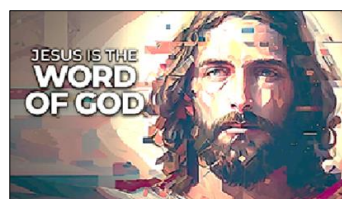
— **Strengthen family life:** Encouraging strong marriages and families, supporting the education of children, and fostering Christian values within the domestic Church.

— **Promote peace and dialogue:** Actively work toward peace in the world and engage in respectful dialogue with people of different faiths and backgrounds.

— **Foster a sense of mission:** Encourage all parishioners to see their daily lives as opportunities to live out the Gospel and bring Christ's love to the world.

Gaudium et Spes encourages every member of the parish to be a positive force in society, grounded in faith, and motivated by love for God and neighbour.

PRESENTATION OF THE LECTIONARIES



"Indeed, the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart."

Hebrews 4, 12

After homily there will be introducing of the new lectionaries.

PRIEST: Dear friends, as you know, the Word of God is at the heart of our worship. How we listen to it, reflect on it, and live by it shapes our faith and our lives.

We are blessed to now have a new set of lectionaries for our liturgies, featuring the latest translation of the Scriptures in English, approved for use in our church.

This morning, I am delighted to present each of the four lectionaries to you. They correspond to different parts of the liturgical year and the readings that will guide us in our journey of faith.

BLESSING OF THE LECTIONARIES

PRIEST: The Word of God is at the heart of our worship, guiding us on our journey of faith and bringing light to our lives. Today, as we prepare to use these new lectionaries in our parish, we ask for God's blessing upon these sacred books and upon those who will proclaim the Word of the Lord to us.

Let us pray. Loving Father Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. As we bless these lectionaries, we ask that You sanctify them by the power of Your Holy Spirit.

After short pause for Priest's blessings of lectionaries we continue.

CONGREGATION: May your words, written within them, transform our hearts, minds, and souls, so that we may be ever more faithful to Your will. Guide us, Lord, as we listen to the Scriptures, and may these lectionaries remind us of Your eternal presence in our lives. *We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

PRESENTATION OF THE LECTIONARIES and LECTORS' BLESSING AND EXPRESSION OF THEIR COMMITMENT

The representative(s) of the lectors will express their renewed commitment.

CLOSING PRAYER

PRIEST: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and kindle in us the fire of Your love.

CONGREGATION: Guide our minds and open our hearts, so that as we listen to Your Word, we may receive wisdom and understanding. Bless the readers with clarity and grace and help each of us to be attentive to Your voice. May Your light shine within us, leading us closer to You and one another. *Amen.*

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The **Dunkeld Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Committee** is delighted to announce that **Bishop Andrew McKenzie will lead** our 2025 **Pilgrimage to Lourdes**, taking place from 7th to 14th July 2025.

For further information, please email: dunkeld@pobox.com or call 07801 227 443.



Next Sunday, 1st December, there will be a second collection for the Poor Mission Fund.

You may use QR Code to donate.