

# PARISH NEWSLETTER



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

**FIFTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME C**

February 09, 2025

Dear Parishioners,



In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear the powerful story of Jesus calling His first disciples. Simon Peter, exhausted from an unsuccessful night of fishing, reluctantly obeys Jesus' instruction to cast his nets again. To his amazement, the nets overflow with fish. Overwhelmed by this miracle, Peter falls at Jesus' feet, aware of his unworthiness. Yet, Jesus responds with reassurance: ***"Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people."***

This moment reveals a profound truth: Jesus does not call the perfect, but rather the willing. Peter, James, and John were ordinary fishermen, yet Christ saw in them the potential to build His Church. Like them, we may feel unworthy or inadequate in our faith journey, but God calls us to trust in His grace and step forward in faith. As we reflect on this Gospel, let us ask ourselves: How is Jesus calling us to be His disciples today? Where is He inviting us to cast our nets in service to others? May we, like Peter, respond with trust, knowing that when we follow Christ, He will do great things through us.

God bless, Father Les

## COMMUNITY PRAYER (Recitation after the homily)

**Priest:** Brothers and sisters, as we have reflected on today's Gospel, let us now turn to the Lord who calls each of us to follow Him. Aware of our human weakness but trusting in His mercy, let us offer our prayer together:

**Congregation:** Lord Jesus, You called Simon Peter, James, and John to leave everything and follow You. Today, You call us as well, inviting us to trust in Your word and to serve You with faith and courage. When we feel unworthy—strengthen us. When we are afraid—encourage us. When we hesitate—give us trust in Your plan. When we feel discouraged—remind us that You are always near.

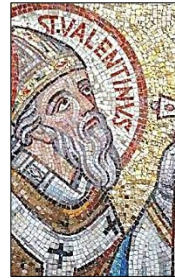
Make us faithful disciples in our families, our workplaces, and our parish. Help us to cast the nets of Your love in the world around us, so that through our words and actions, others may come to know You. We place our lives in Your hands, Lord, knowing that with You, all things are possible. Lead us always in Your ways, for You are our Lord and Saviour, who live and reign forever and ever. *Amen.*

## Pope Francis' February 2025 Prayer Intention

*For vocations to the priesthood and religious life.*

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

## A CATHOLIC TAKE ON VALENTINE'S DAY



Valentine's Day is often celebrated with flowers, chocolates, and romantic gestures, but its deeper meaning has strong roots in our Catholic faith. The day is named after **St. Valentine**, a 3rd-century priest who was martyred for his unwavering commitment to

Christ and the sacrament of marriage. His witness reminds us that true love is more than fleeting emotions—it is **a reflection of God's love, self-giving, and sacrifice.**

### Love in the Christian Life

As Catholics, we recognize that love is at the heart of our faith. Jesus teaches us: *"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."* (John 15:12) Love is not just about feelings but about action—choosing to serve, to forgive, and to place the good of others before ourselves. Whether in marriage, friendship, family, or religious life, love is a **vocation to holiness.**

### A Love That Reflects Christ

St. Valentine defended marriage because he understood that love is sacred. In the Catholic tradition, the **sacrament of matrimony** is a covenant—a visible sign of God's love for His people. It calls spouses to mirror Christ's love for the Church: selfless, faithful, and enduring.

Yet, love extends beyond romantic relationships. St. Paul reminds us: *"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clashing cymbal."* (1 Cor 13:1) True love is found in every **act of charity**, in the care of parents for their children, in friendships rooted in faith, and in our daily service to those in need.

### A Prayer for Love

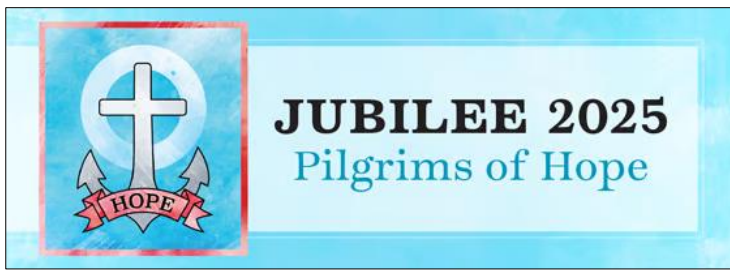
**Heavenly Father,** You are the source of all love. Teach us to love as You do—selflessly, generously, and faithfully. Bless all married couples, strengthen families, and guide those discerning their vocations. May we reflect Your love in all our relationships, so that through us, others may encounter You. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*This Valentine's Day, may we remember that the greatest love story is not found in a card or a romantic dinner, but in Christ's love for us—a love that is eternal, sacrificial, and life-giving.*

Dunkeld Diocese, Scottish Charity No: SC001819

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If you feel that particular form of communication or support network could be useful to parishioners, especially those who are housebound and vulnerable, please contact Fr Leszek Wicaszek SAC



## JUBILEE 2025 Pilgrims of Hope

### Pilgrims of Hope: Embracing the Jubilee Year

Pope Francis calls us to be “*Pilgrims of Hope*” as we journey through this Jubilee Year. Reflecting on this invitation, three key words stand out: **Jubilee, Pilgrims, and Hope.**

#### Jubilee: A Time of Renewal

Throughout history, Jubilees have marked moments of profound transformation. They were times when captives were set free, debts were forgiven, and relationships—both with God and with one another—were restored. In biblical tradition, the land itself was granted rest, allowing the earth to heal from continuous cultivation. In many ways, a Jubilee is a divine *reset*, an opportunity for renewal in our personal lives, our communities, and the world.

## A CALL TO ACTION & PRAYER

St. Ignatius of Loyola often referred to himself as “*the pilgrim*”, making this word particularly significant for those following the Ignatian way. Like him, we are invited to step forward in faith, to *move*—not only physically, but spiritually—toward deeper trust in God’s plan.

When Ignatius began his own pilgrimage, he was not in peak condition. After months of convalescence following a severe battle injury, he was physically weak, permanently impaired, and in constant discomfort. Yet, he pressed on.

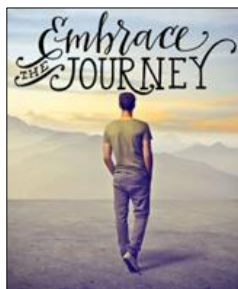
His journey was not one of ease, but of perseverance. His experience reminds us that pilgrimages—whether literal or metaphorical—often involve struggle, uncertainty, and sacrifice.

#### Hope: The Journey Ahead

As we embrace this Jubilee Year, we walk as pilgrims of hope—believing that renewal is possible, that grace is abundant, and that God is always leading us forward.

Hope does not ignore pain or challenges; rather, it gives us the courage to continue despite them. Just as Ignatius limped forward on his journey, we, too, may carry burdens, wounds, or doubts. But we walk in faith, trusting that each step, however small, brings us closer to God and His promise of renewal.

*This year, let us put on our spiritual walking shoes and set forth as pilgrims—not just wandering, but purposefully seeking God’s presence in our lives and in the world.*



### PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

The call to serve God comes in many forms, and each of us is invited to respond to His voice in our own way. However, in a special way, we recognize the need to pray for vocations—so that the Church may always be blessed with faithful priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers, and dedicated lay ministers who will lead others closer to Christ.

Jesus tells us in the Gospel: “*The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out labourers into His harvest.*” (Matthew 9:37-38).

This is not just a request but a command—our prayers are vital in nurturing and encouraging those whom God is calling to His service.

#### A Prayer for Vocations

##### Heavenly Father,

You call each of us by name and invite us to follow You.

Bless Your Church with dedicated priests, deacons, and religious, who will lead Your people with wisdom and love.

Open the hearts of young men and women, that they may hear Your call and respond with courage and generosity.

Strengthen families and communities, that they may foster and support vocations in their midst.

Lord, send labourers into Your harvest, and guide all of us to seek and fulfil Your will.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Let us continue to pray fervently for vocations, trusting that God will provide shepherds for His flock in every generation.*



#### LOURDES OCTOBER 2025

Helpers places are still available for an ACROSS pilgrimage, travelling by Jumbulance, to Lourdes from Dundee from 9th to 18th October 2025 (all inclusive). Chaplain – Fr Tobias Okoro

For more information about the cost etc., please contact

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