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Welcome to St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church

Rev. Gregory Murphy OP
Parish Priest

Chaplain to Dundee and Abertay Universities

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SACRAMENTAL SCHEDULE

HOLY MASS – THE EUCHARIST

In Church: Sunday at 10.00am. In winter in Chapel: on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 10.00am.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT with benediction on Wednesday after 10.00am Mass.

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION Mass: 10.00am and 6.00pm.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE - by appointment with Fr Greg. Parish Priest is available to visit sick parishioners who are sick at home and may administer the **SACRAMENT OF THE SICK**. Please telephone landline or mobile to request an appointment with the priest.

For more info: webpage www.stjosephsdundee.org.uk

HOSPITAL PRIEST CONTACT ON - 07821 624 124

HOMILY HELPS

We are sinful people. We can blame our weaknesses, or our poor self-control, or our inability to overcome our demons. In today's first reading, both Adam and Eve choose to blame someone else. Adam immediately blames Eve, and even indirectly blames God: "you put [her] here with me" (Genesis 3:12). Eve then blames the "tricky" serpent. Neither person accepts responsibility themselves. Neither one admits their sin. Sin is perpetuated when we don't acknowledge our own failings.

HOMILY HELPS

In disputing the scribes' absurd contention that Jesus is able to drive out demons because he is possessed by the prince of demons, Jesus warns of blaspheming against the Holy Spirit. By doing so, he implies that the Holy Spirit allows him to drive out the unclean spirits. We received the Holy Spirit in baptism and so we too have the Holy Spirit within us. May we use the power of the Holy Spirit in us to drive out the demons who threaten to destroy our lives.

St Joseph's Weekly Parish Newsletter

FEAR AND FORGIVENESS

The fearful Gospel Reading says that there is an unforgiveable sin. What is *that*?

To see the answer, consider the Psalm: *out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord! If you, O LORD, mark iniquities, LORD, who can stand?* (Ps 130:1 ff)

Who doesn't feel this way about his sins?

And now notice how the Psalm continues: *But with you is forgiveness, that you may be revered*—or, as another translation has it, *that you may be feared*.

Why think that God forgives your sins so that you might revere or fear him? Wouldn't it be more true to say that you fear God because you worry about your sins? Wouldn't you fear that if you faced God, your sins would just seem worse because you would see them in the light of God's holiness? And yet look what the Psalm says: there is forgiveness with God! God's forgiveness can gentle you into a surrender to God's love, can't it? If God himself loves you and forgives your sins, then wouldn't you love God and want to cleave to him? And so, the Psalmist is right: there is forgiveness of your sins with God so that you might fear God—not with a fear of God's punishing or forsaking you, but just with a fear of your own turning away from the Lord who forgives you.

But then, if God forgives you so that you might fear him, what sin of yours is unforgiveable?

You can see the answer for yourself now, can't you?

What happens if when God forgives you, you turn away from him instead of cleaving to him and fearing him? If you turn away from God even when God forgives you, then there is nothing left that God can do for you, is there? The gift of God's forgiveness is there for you. But if you won't open to receive it, then even God can't give it.

And what does a refusal to accept God's forgiveness come to except a refusal to believe that the love and forgiveness of God are there, there *for you* too? In effect, a refusal of God's forgiveness is a rejection of God as love.

And so, the unforgiveable sin is a permanent refusal to accept God's forgiveness. But that refusal really is blasphemous against the Spirit of God, isn't it? What does Scripture say? God is Love. (1 John 4: 7-8) **Eleonore Stump**

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

What kind of spiritual workout can I plan for myself?
What will I do daily to renew my spiritual self?

GOD GIVES AND FORGIVES - MAN GETS AND FORGETS

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

Moved by the Holy Spirit, we gather today as a family—a parish family as well as children of God—to celebrate the Eucharist. It is appropriate to think of our family of faith, for in the Gospel today we hear Jesus tell the crowds that whoever does the will of God is a part of his family. We may not always be conscious of our closeness to the Lord, so let us pray that we may come to recognize the gift that allows us to be sisters and brothers of Jesus as we do our best to do God's will.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

We return to readings from the Gospel of St Mark. Original sin drove a wedge between humanity and God. Adam and Eve were banished from paradise, their home in Eden. But as we sing in the psalm, with God there is mercy and redemption. Indeed, Paul teaches us that while our earthly dwelling—our bodies—may waste away, our heavenly dwelling awaits. In the Gospel, Jesus assures us that whoever follows God's will is brother and sister to him. Let us listen to God's word as part of God's family.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading Genesis 3: 9-15

I will make you enemies of each other: you and the woman, your offspring and her offspring.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 129

**'With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.'**

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 4: 13 5: 1

We believe and therefore we also speak.

Alleluia, alleluia! If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him. Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 3: 20-35

It is the end of Satan.

PARISH PRAYER INTENTIONS 9 JUNE 2024

Please pray for those who are sick at home or in hospital especially those of our Parish – Andrew and Lyn Fyffe, Margaret Beck, Tony Beck, Anya Behl, Fletcher Ditchburn, Michael Fernando, Lisa Gillespie, Gerard Halliday, Margaret McDonagh, John MacPherson, Rena Samson, Pat Smith, Leanne Walker and Charlie Welsh. **May they feel the healing power of Christ, in body and in spirit.**

Please pray for those who have died and gone before us in faith – for the souls of Fr Bogdan Palka and Fr Martin Chambers, who have died recently, and Harry McGregor, Fr Kevin Smyth, Alana Niven, Vicky Reilly, Ina West, Thomas Flynn, Linda Brogan and Charlie Mullin, whose anniversaries occur around this time. **May God grant them, and the souls of all the faithful departed, eternal rest.**

GIFT AID LETTERS

All parishioners who contributed to the church through gift aid in the financial year 6 April 2023 to 5 April 2024 will receive a letter giving detail of the amount of their donations and the amount of tax that will be claimed shortly by St Joseph's. These are available **TODAY** and can be collected from the desk in the church porch. Many, many thanks for this additional support to our church.

WELCOME TO ST JOSEPH'S – Protector of the Church

Thank you for your interest in our parish. Whether you're just visiting us for a brief time, looking for a new parish home, are returning to the practice of your Catholic faith or are interested in finding out more about the Catholic Church, we're happy you are here.

VOCATIONS FOR JUSTICE

The cost-of-living crisis is pushing increasing numbers of people in the UK into poverty. Almost 2 million people used a food bank last year, the highest number yet. Meanwhile, six in ten low-income households are not able to afford an unexpected expense, and over seven in ten families are going without essentials. We would like to see better support for the growing number of people living in poverty in the UK, including a welfare system that supports people in need, whether they are in work or not. *J & P Scotland*

AN ELECTION PRAYER

Eternal God, Lord of creation, as we look towards the coming election, we ask that your Spirit of truth be upon us. Let us, your people, be guided by Gospel values of love of neighbour, truth, justice and compassion towards all, particularly the least of our sisters and brothers. Help us to choose political parties and candidates willing to place the needs of the many before the profits of the few, to put the wellbeing of the majority above the wellbeing of the markets, and the conserving of our common home ahead of the cossetting of corporations that harm creation. Amen

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS LAST SUNDAY 02/06/24

Loose Plate £137 Gift Aid Envelopes £108

Standing Orders £259 Additional Offertories £0

TOTAL £504

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

QUIET MOMENT

I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I wish to be,
I am not what I hope to be; but, by the grace of God,
I am not what I was. *John Newton*

NEWS AND INFORMATION

VOLUNTARY SUPPORT – many thanks to those who assisted with the church cleaning last Thursday. Our church looks sparkling again.

TICKETS for EVITA - see poster in porch for full booking information for this planned night out on 27 November.

HOME BAKING EVENT – the June event was held last Sunday and raised £65. Many thanks to all those who provided delicious goodies and to those who supported. Our next event will be in September, after the holidays.

CHURCH FOOD BANK – could you help by contributing regularly one or two items on a weekly basis? Please support if you can. The food bank is located in the entrance vestibule next to the side altar to Our Lady.

CONTRIBUTE TO OUR PARISH NEWSLETTER – by email to:
Fr Greg :- stjosephdundee@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
John Sinclair :- john.sinclair9@outlook.com
News, information and feedback would help enliven and improve our weekly newsletter – please give your support.