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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

Saul, persecutor of Christians, seemed to be comfortable in that role, right up until he received a jolt on his way to Damascus. Now, as Paul, apostle to the Gentiles, he speaks of an affliction - "a thorn in the flesh" - that bedevils him (2 Corinthians 12:7). Three times he begged the Lord for relief, but the Lord told him that "power is made perfect in weakness" (12:9). Like Jesus himself, who by becoming flesh made himself weak, who also begged his Father three times (in Gethsemane) to be released from his suffering, who in the end triumphed over sin and death by submitting himself to the cross, Paul realizes that by enduring "weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints" he is made strong (12:10).

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

How do I react when someone criticises or challenges me?

Do I dismiss their words at once?

How can I prayerfully consider their criticism or advice?

St Joseph's Weekly Parish Newsletter

CONTENT WITH INSULT, PERSECUTION, AND WEAKNESS

In the Second Reading, Paul says that he is content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, and persecutions. Why would any rational person be content with these things? All of them look like the very things to avoid if you possibly can.

Well, what *would* anyone be content with? How about beatitude? That would be worthy of contentment, wouldn't it?

But in the Sermon on the Mount, Christ connects beatitude to persecution: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness's sake (cf. Mt. 5:9). Actually, in the very next verse, Christ connects beatitude to being insulted, too.

And now it is easy to see why anyone would be content with persecutions and insults, and so with hardships, too. Beatitude goes together with them.

Christianity turns the ordinary standards of the world upside down. When we follow Christ and suffer persecution, insults, and hardships with him, we are not among the world's losers. We are the prize-winners. Beatitude is ours! But that still leaves weakness. Paul says his own weakness comes from Satan. And, of course, one kind of weakness that comes from Satan is sin. Could anyone—*should* anyone—be content with his own sin?

Of course, a person shouldn't accept his sins! Out with them! Out with them NOW!

Just expressing the thought this way explains Paul's point, doesn't it?

Hardship, insult, persecution, and most especially the wretched sin that besets us—these things are not our final state. Beauty and love in life with the Lord are our final state. They are our home.

But we do not get home by ourselves. Only God has the wisdom and the power to get us there. And so, we have to wait for him, even for the removal of those sins that we would so dearly love to be rid of—and, of course, would also so dearly love to keep.

And that is why Paul can be content even with weakness. That is why we can be patient even with our own sins. God's grace is sufficient for each one of us, not just where insults and hardships are concerned, but even when it comes to our sins. If only we do not stop waiting for him with trust, with peace and contentment in him, he will rid us of our sins in his own time. He will get us home. *Eleonore Stump*

IS HE NOT THE CARPENTER?

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

Each Sunday the Holy Spirit draws us here to hear God's word, to receive Christ in the Eucharist, and to worship the Lord. We pray that our faith is strengthened by this time we spend in prayer. When Jesus preached in his hometown, he was amazed at the lack of faith of his neighbours. They came to the synagogue to pray but left questioning how this unassuming neighbour could teach with such authority. May we look beyond surface impressions to find nourishment for our faith.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Ezekiel recounts his calling in today's first reading, relating that God told him bluntly that a prophet's audience is obstinate and rebellious. Paul tells of hardships of his own but insists that they provide opportunities for Christ's power to strengthen him. The people of Nazareth take offense at Jesus, unwilling to accept that this local carpenter could teach them about God. Let us be attentive to God's voice, both here and wherever we hear him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading Ezekiel 2: 2-5

The sons are defiant and obstinate, and they shall know that there is a prophet among them.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 122

'Our eyes are on the Lord till he show us his mercy.'

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 12: 7-10

I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me.

Alleluia, alleluia! The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 6: 1-6

A prophet is only despised in his own country.

PARISH PRAYER INTENTIONS 7 JULY 2024

Please pray for those who are sick at home or in hospital especially those of our Parish – Lawrence Sterpaio, Say Ly, Margaret Beck, Tony Beck, Anya Behl, Fletcher Ditchburn, Andrew Fyffe, Lyn Fyffe, Lisa Gillespie, Gerard Halliday, Margaret McDonagh, Rena Samson, Leanne Walker and Pat Smith. **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 Deacon Charles Hendry, Archie Archibald and John MacPherson, who have died recently, and Mildred Strachan, Fr Mark Edwards and Mary Devlin, whose anniversaries occur around this time. **May God grant them, and the souls of all the faithful departed, eternal rest.**

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS LAST SUNDAY 30/06/24

Loose Plate £182 Gift Aid Envelopes £256
Standing Orders £259 Additional Offertories £0

TOTAL £697

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

2nd COLLECTION - PETER'S PENCE - £161

2nd COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY – 14th JULY

APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA

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.

QUIET MOMENT

The name of Jesus is at the heart of Christian prayer.

All liturgical prayers conclude with the words

'through our Lord Jesus Christ'.

The Hail Mary reaches its high point in the words

'blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus'.

The Eastern prayer of the heart, the Jesus Prayer, says:

'Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me. A sinner'.

Many Christians, such as Saint Joan of Arc, have died with the one word *'Jesus'* on their lips.

MEMORIALS AND FEASTS

OUR LADY OF ABERDEEN – FEAST

Tuesday 9 July

Devotion to Our Lady of Aberdeen stems back at least to Bishop Gavin Dunbar (1514-1531) when a statue of the Madonna and child was placed by him in a chapel near the Bridge of Dee. It was saved from destruction during the Reformation, and eventually found its way to Brussels. It continues to be venerated there under the title of Notre Dame du Bon Succès (Our Lady of Good Success). A number of copies are the object of devotion here in Scotland.

FRANKNESS OF SAINT PAUL

With respect to the Second Reading (2 Cor 12:7-10) we should surely be grateful to St Paul for the frankness with which he acknowledged the "thorn in the flesh" that remained despite all his pleadings with God to take it away. It must have been something well known and obvious, since he clearly expected his Corinthians audience to know what he was talking about – something like a physical ailment that made his appearance unattractive or an impediment of speech. Whatever it was, the "thorn" that God would not take away became a key aspect of his spirituality and sense of God's grace. Faced with seemingly ineradicable character traits and weaknesses, we too have to learn, "When I am weak, then I am strong."

SEA SUNDAY – 14 JULY

Next Sunday is Sea Sunday when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. There will be a second collection for the Apostleship of the Sea, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church. It provides practical and spiritual support to seafarers visiting our ports. As it is dependent on voluntary donations only, please give generously.

POST-ELECTION PRAYER

Lord God, we lift up to you our newly elected leaders and government officials. Grant them wisdom, integrity, and a spirit of service as they undertake their duties. May they be guided by a commitment to the common good, justice, and the welfare of all citizens. May they govern with compassion, humility, and a deep sense of responsibility towards the most vulnerable and marginalised in our society. Through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.