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Welcome to St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church

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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

TO WHOM SHALL WE GO

(continued)

Now, of course, all of us would prefer a life that is simple, clear and easy. But those are not gifts which discipleship guarantees. Sometimes we merely need to hold on because there is no better place to go. And Jesus, like he did with Peter, is more than willing to accept us and our faith on those terms.

When we understand what faith and discipleship are truly about, we are able to pray, "Lord Jesus, even though it is difficult, even though I am confused, even though it hurts, I still believe in you. But thank you for giving me the freedom to say I'm not happy about it—and if I had better option, I would take it."

Fr George M Smiga

HOMILY HELP By the time that we reach this final extract from the Bread of Life Discourse, we find that Jesus' disciples are struggling with his teaching, but Jesus refuses to compromise. Instead, he asks the twelve, "What about you, do you want to go away too?". Peter replies, "We believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God."

St Joseph's Weekly Parish Newsletter

TO WHOM SHALL WE GO

Sometimes our best choice is far from perfect. We end up choosing something that really does not please us, but we do so precisely because no better options are available.

This seems to be the situation with Peter in today's gospel. Many people are finding that Jesus' teaching is difficult, hard to accept. So, they are leaving. They are no longer travelling in his company. Jesus asks Peter, "Do you also want to leave?" and Peter says, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

Now notice, Peter is not affirming Jesus' teaching. He is not saying that he is happy with it. He understands why so many people are leaving, but he is going to stay. But he is not staying because he is excited about staying. He is going to stay because where else can he go. Even though Jesus' teaching is difficult and troublesome, Peter knows that there is no better option available to him.

Now the good news about today's gospel is that Jesus lets Peter stay. Even though Peter is unhappy, even though he finds the teaching difficult, Jesus is willing to accept Peter as a disciple on those terms. Peter can remain a disciple even though the only reason he is staying is because he does not have a better place to go.

Now, Jesus' acceptance of Peter's faith clarifies for us what discipleship and what faith are about. Sometimes we think that we believe in God because it is going to make us happy. Indeed, sometimes it does make us happy. But that is not why we believe. We believe in God because it is true, and the truth of that belief does not guarantee that life will be easy. Sometimes we think that we believe in God because it is going to answer all of our questions. Sometimes it does give us a good deal of insight. But that is not why we believe. We believe in God because God is real. But that faith does not give us all the answers and does not guarantee that we will be pleased with the answers we receive.

We can be disciples of Jesus even though we are discouraged, even though we have doubts, even though we are afraid. When troubles in our family continue to disrupt our lives, when our health deteriorates, when people whom we love make decisions that wound us, it does not mean that our faith is misplaced or that God is not God. It is a reminder to us that God's ways are often unclear and frequently burdensome. The troubles and difficulties of our life tell us that faith is as much about persevering as it is about celebrating and much more about trusting than understanding.

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INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

Life is difficult. We struggle each day as we try to balance our bank accounts, our time, and our obligations. We come here to worship each week when we could be somewhere else, doing something else. Our faith, our sense of what God is calling us to do, and the Holy Spirit draws us here instead. But each Sunday it is ultimately our decision. We have made the decision to give this hour to the Lord. We are not the first to have to make this decision. The readings we hear today remind us that each of the Chosen People and each of Jesus' disciples were faced with the same decision. May their response inspire us.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

For the Chosen People and Jesus' disciples, this is the moment of truth. They must make a choice: serve the Lord or leave. Joshua, in addressing this question to all the people, gets one response, while Jesus, in addressing all his disciples, receives a different one. Saint Paul tells the Ephesians that we, the Church, are members of Christ's body and that Christ loves the Church as a husband loves his wife. As we hear God's word, let us insert ourselves in each reading and make our choice.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading Joshua 24: 1-2, 15-18

We will serve the Lord, for he is our God.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 33

'Taste and see that the Lord is good.'

Second Reading Ephesians 5: 21-32

This mystery has many implications for Christ and his Church.

Alleluia, alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

Gospel John 6: 60-69

Who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life.

PARISH PRAYER INTENTIONS 25 AUGUST 2024

Please pray for those who are sick at home or in hospital especially those of our Parish – Marlene Kenny, Say Ly, Peter Angus, Cathie Donnelly, Margaret Forsyth, Mary Kidd, Linda Jamieson, Gillian Donnelly, Margaret Beck, Tony Beck, Anya Behl, Fletcher Ditchburn, Andrew Fyffe, Lyn Fyffe, Lisa Gillespie, Gerard Halliday, Margaret McDonagh, Rena Samson and Leanne Walker. **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 Margaret MacPherson, Fr Charles Adamson, Fr Hugh Campbell, Stewart Robertson, Agnes Soave, Betty Bain and Isabella Gow, whose anniversaries occur around this time. **May God grant them, and the souls of all the faithful departed, eternal rest.**

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT YOUR CHURCH?

Would you be willing and able to give a few hours of your time on **Saturday 28 September** to show visitors around our church and tell them something about our faith and history of St Joseph's?

Full support and guidance will be provided and you will enjoy doing it. **Support our Doors Open Event!**
Speak to Fr Greg or John Sinclair for information.

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS LAST SUNDAY 18/08/24

Loose Plate £146 Gift Aid Envelopes £176

Standing Orders £259 Mortuary Chapel Refurbish £65

TOTAL £646

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Mortuary Chapel – if you would like to financially contribute to the recent re-furbishing work that has been carried out, main cost was the re-plastering of the ceiling at £700, we would be very grateful. Many thanks.

FEASTS AND MEMORIALS

ST MONICA – MEMORIAL

Tuesday 27 August

St Monica was the North African Catholic woman whose prayers helped both her husband Patricus and her son Augustine to be converted and baptised.

ST AUGUSTINE – MEMORIAL

Wednesday 28 August

This great saint was born to Patricus and Monica. Extremely intelligent, as a young man he crossed to Rome and then Milan. Encouraged by the presence of his mother, Augustine received baptism and returned, a committed Catholic, to North Africa. He was made Bishop of Hippo, was an outstanding writer and preacher and extremely influential in the Church. Among the Doctors of the Church, Saint Augustine occupies an illustrious position.

THE PASSION OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

MEMORIAL

Thursday 29 August

St John the Baptist was imprisoned and decapitated by Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great, for his heroic witness to the truth, thereby becoming the precursor of the Lord's own violent death, as he had been in his remarkable birth and prophetic preaching.

COMMITMENT IS DIFFICULT

How often do we resolve to commit to something—daily exercise, a new diet, a volunteer programme—but let it slide after a few months or even just a few days? Nevertheless, Joshua asks us to commit to serving God, to discerning God's will and carrying it out in this world. Paul asks those who are married to commit to their spouse. He asks that all Christians commit themselves to the community, the Church, for it is the body of Christ. Jesus asks us to commit to follow him, no matter how difficult. Can we commit to this: to serve God, to remain committed to the Church and to our spouses, and to carry our crosses as we follow the Lord?

NEWS AND INFORMATION

HOME BAKING IS BACK AFTER THE SUMMER BREAK – and will take place next Sunday 1 September. Please support us on the day by providing baking and other goodies and also by purchasing from our stall. Many thanks – *Margaret*.

LOOKING FOR A LATE CATHOLIC GAP YEAR? Are you Catholic, aged 18 to 22 and not got anything lined up for the year ahead? Castlerigg Manor (Diocese of Lancaster retreat centre) are looking for young people to join their youth ministry. The scheme provides comprehensive training and experience as well as accommodation and food for the year, and a stipend each week. Anyone who is interested can check out castleriggmanor.com >> join the team, or Email Jack Regan – director@castleriggmanor.co.uk