



©Harry McGregor

Welcome to St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church

Rev. Gregory Murphy OP
Parish Priest

Chaplain to Dundee and Abertay Universities

42 Wilkie's Lane, Dundee DD1 5HR

Tel: (01382) 229 099

Mobile: 07598 113842

Email: stjosephdundee@dunkelldiocese.org.uk

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

ST JOSEPH'S 200 CLUB 2025 – It's time for annual subscription renewal. Each number is £25 per annum and can be paid (instalments if you wish) in cash or by cheque payable to 'TRUSTEES RC DIOCESE DUNKELD 1'. £2 per number monthly Jan-Nov and £3 Dec available. Monthly draw with prizes of £100 and £25, with 3 prizes - £200, £100 and £50 in December. Numbers available, so see me if you wish to join or have a new number. Thanks - *Linda Gow*.

HOMILY HELP

John the Baptist is our model for Advent. He prepared the way for Jesus as Jesus was about to begin his public ministry. Now we are called to prepare for Jesus' coming into our homes, our lives, and our hearts. To do so, let us first heed John's call for repentance and seek forgiveness of our sins from those whom we have hurt and from God. Repentance fills in the chasms that separate us from each other and from God. And forgiveness enables us to cross them.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What do I need to repent of in order to cross the main chasm that separates me from God?

St Joseph's Weekly Parish Newsletter

THE END OF THE STORY

Each person has a life story. It begins when a person is born, helpless and naked, infinitely valuable to his mother maybe but not of much account in the world at large.

From that beginning on, each person is trying to get somewhere, to be something. At every stage, he is hoping that if he could *only*—only what? Well, only learn to ride the bike, win the girl, finish the degree, land the job, buy the house, get the raise—then, oh, then, he would have gotten what he wanted to have. He would be what he wanted to be.

But what is it we *really* want to have and to be? What is the point of anything we strive for in our lives? When all is said and done, none of us is getting out of this world alive. And when we face that fact, what difference does anything make? Each chapter of a person's life leads inexorably to the next, until it leads to death. As we face death, will we care at all anymore about all those things that we struggled to have and to be during any of the earlier chapters of our lives?

It can be that we will. A person can write the story of his life in such a way that the main theme is the Lord and the things of the Lord. Those things last through death, into the world that is the ever-lasting last chapter for the lives of the Lord's people.

Our Psalm illuminates that last chapter brilliantly. In that world, on the other side of death, all the failures, all the sins, all the pains—everything that caused tears in earthly life will be redeemed into joy. Even if a person ended the earthly story of his life with only seeds of faith, hope, and love, he will reap the fruit of those seeds with rejoicing in the world to come.

At that time, each of the Lord's people will look at what he has gotten and think he must be dreaming. He will look at what he himself has become and find it so hard to believe and so good that he bursts into laughter of joy. This end of the story is what is worth living for.

Eleonore Stump

HOSPITAL PRIEST CONTACT ON – 07821 624 124

FESTIVAL OF CAROLS – CECILIAN CHOIR

The annual Festival of Carols by the Cecilian Choir in the Cathedral on the Fourth Sunday of Advent (Sunday 22 December) at 3 p.m. Bishop Andrew McKenzie will preside. The Cecilian Choir will be singing a different programme from the one to be sung in St Joseph's on Monday 16 December.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

“Make straight his paths,” we hear John the Baptist proclaim today. How do we do so? John’s primary message throughout the whole region answers that question: We must repent of our sins. Our sins are the obstacles that block the path of the Lord, that make it more difficult for him to enter our hearts. True repentance allows for God’s forgiveness to clear those obstacles, to make straight the Lord’s path into our heart. Let us resolve today to repent of our failings and seek God’s forgiveness.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Who better than John the Baptist to guide us during this season of preparation for Jesus’ coming? Today we see John travel throughout the region proclaiming a baptism of repentance and recalling the prophecy of Isaiah. Baruch’s prophecy, which we hear in the first reading, echoes Isaiah as well. All three trumpet God’s mercy and forgiveness as they envision the coming of the Lord. Let us heed their call.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading Baruch 5: 1-9
God means to show your splendour to every nation.
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 125

**‘What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.’**

Second Reading Philippians 1: 3-6; 8-11
Be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.
Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 3: 1-6
All mankind shall see the salvation of God.

PARISH PRAYER INTENTIONS 8 DECEMBER 2024

Please pray for those who are sick at home or in hospital especially those of our Parish – Marlene Kenny, Margaret Mackie, Saul Sangster, Peter Angus, Rena Samson, Gillian Donnelly, Margaret Beck, Tony Beck, Anya Behl, Fletcher Ditchburn, Andrew Fyffe, Lyn Fyffe, Lisa Gillespie, Gerard Halliday and Margaret McDonagh. **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 Ann Gunning, who has died recently, and Jack Lindsay and Mary Coyle, whose anniversaries occur around this time. **May God grant them, and the souls of all the faithful departed, eternal rest.**

WINTER WARMERS APPEAL - by the charity Eagles Wings, who support male and female rough sleepers and other homeless persons in Dundee. Please support this year’s appeal for hats, gloves, thick socks and scarves. If you have any unused items that you can spare, or items that you could buy and then donate, please bring them along to the church. Collection box in the porch. Thanks - *J & P Group*.

SCIAF CHRISTMAS GIFT STALL – held over 2 Sundays and raised nearly £110 which is urgently needed by the SCIAF team working with the Palestinian charities. Many thanks for all your support. *Maggie Newall*

JUSTICE & PEACE SERVICE – SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER

This service shall take its usual form and start at 3.00pm and should last about 40 minutes. In addition, from 1.30pm the members of our group will be giving Advent readings and playing music to prepare us for the coming of our Saviour at Christmas. Please take the time to come along to both or one of these parts, and escape from the frantic hustle and bustle which now surrounds Christmas. *Jack Smith*

AN EVENING OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Enjoy an evening of Carols, old and new, in St Joseph’s Church, Wilkies Lane, Dundee, on **Monday 16 December at 7.00pm**. Performance by the Cecilian Choir and Dundee Harp Group. Light refreshments will be provided. There will be a retiral collection for St Joseph’s organ fund. Please come and join us for this special music event – all welcome.

CHRISTMAS GREENERY - we will be decorating our church and altars with greenery on **Monday 16 December**. If you can help with providing some of this greenery, please bring it to the church on **Sunday 15**. We will be starting at 10.30am and would welcome your help (and your company) on the day. *Many thanks - Monica Veal*.

INSTEAD OF A CHRISTMAS CARD... why not send greetings to your parishioner friends in this newsletter? For a small contribution to SCIAF you can put your unique Christmas seasonal message to all and support our Scottish Catholic charity work – so vital across the world today. The cost will be a donation amount of your choice. Just write out your greeting, put it in an envelope with your donation and drop it into the offertory collection basket, or give to a member of the SCIAF group. You can also email your message direct to john.sinclair9@outlook.com Messages will go in the newsletter on Sunday 15 December and Sunday 22 December. Many thanks.

Example: *Holly and Jack Frost and family
wish you all the Peace and Joy of Christmas*

ADVENT CALENDAR – full programme on noticeboard

15/12/24	Sunday	3.00pm	J&P Advent Service
22/12/24	Sunday	10.00am	Mass in Church
24/12/24	Tuesday	7.00pm	Carols in Church
24/12/24	Tuesday	7.30pm	Christmas Vigil Mass
25/12/24	Wednesday	10.00am	Christmas Day Mass
29/12/24	Sunday	10.00am	Mass in Church

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS LAST SUNDAY 01/12/24

Loose Plate £141	Gift Aid Envelopes £237
Standing Orders £259	Additional Offertories £100
Lectionary Donations (new) £40	TOTAL £777
2nd Collection – POOR MISSION FUND - £109	
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT	

NEW LECTIONARY – can you assist us with this cost?

A new edition of the Lectionary, the book which contains the readings which are proclaimed at Mass, came into use in Scotland on the First Sunday of Advent 2024. If you can assist us with the parish cost of £1,365 for these new books, special envelopes are available on the porch desk, and you can also give with Gift Aid. **Please try to help if you can.**