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Welcome to St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church

Rev. Gregory Murphy OP
Parish Priest

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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

HOMILY HELP

In the second reading, Saint Paul teaches the burgeoning Christian family in Colossians the importance of "bearing with one another and forgiving one another" (Colossians 3:13). This needs to happen for any family to thrive and grow. Families will have disagreements. Family members will hurt one another, unintentionally or not. In today's Gospel, Mary and Joseph could have punished Jesus for not telling them that he was staying in the temple. Jesus could have been offended that he was being treated like a child. But any negative feelings they had they bore without lashing out and they forgave one another for their misunderstandings.

Luke tells us that all who heard the twelve-year-old Jesus in the temple "were astounded at his understanding" (Luke 2:47). His response to his parents when they finally find him shows that he understands that he is the Son of the God who welcomes being called "Abba," an intimate term for "Father." He understands that even though his mother and foster father love him with all their hearts, his Father loves him with a divine love, a perfect love. Later he will tell his disciples that the Father loves them perfectly as well.

St Joseph's Weekly Parish Newsletter

TEMPTED BUT WITHOUT SIN

In the Gospel Reading, when Mary finally finds her almost-adolescent son, she says to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." It is not hard to recognize her lines to him as a rebuke. She has been looking for him for three days! But here the story has to bump up against doctrine. Scripture tells us that Jesus was like us in every way, except that he had no sin (Heb. 4:15). Anyone in doubt about the moral seriousness with which Scripture takes honouring one's parents should look again at the First Reading. How is the doctrine that Jesus is without sin compatible with this story in the Gospel about his mother's having to search for him for three days?

The answer lies in the explanation Jesus gives his mother. He says to her, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?"

So, Jesus thought that his mother understood his relation to God and his need to be in God's temple learning at this time. He was wrong, on this score, of course. But it's a kind of wrongness that shows something sweet in him, isn't it? He is attributing to his mother more knowledge, more understanding, than she has.

He is therefore not dishonouring her when he takes off for three days without a word to her. On the contrary, he is in fact honouring her by thinking of her as if she had Christ's own knowledge of his relation to his father.

It is true that I am showing a way in which Jesus in this story is guilty of no sin—but only by virtue of pointing out that he is guilty of a mistake. But the Scriptural line says that Jesus is like us in every respect except sin, and to err is human. Thinking more highly of your mother than is warranted is a sinless mistake if anything is.

Jesus is human enough to learn from his mistake, though. The story goes on to say that Jesus went home with his parents and was obedient to them. And so, the story finishes, Jesus advanced in wisdom as well as age.

And that is a good way to age, isn't it? *Eleonore Stump*

A NEW YEAR – A NEW BEGINNING

For the grace to begin again: that God will free us from all that holds us bound and invigorate us to live life fully for God's glory and the service of our sisters and brothers.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

How can I help my family be more reflective of the Holy Family?

What difficulties stand out in our family life?

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

We hope to care for our children and raise them in a loving home as Mary and Joseph did for Jesus. We hope to respect and obey our parents, as Jesus did as he was growing up. On this feast of the Holy Family, we celebrate a family we hope to emulate. May the Holy Family be a model of love, respect, and understanding for our own today.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first two readings include dozens of phrases and aphorisms which could be framed and hung in a home, constant reminders of how to live as a family: "He stores up riches who reveres his mother." "Over all these put on love." "Be thankful." As we listen to God's word, may we appreciate these words of wisdom and hear how Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, despite the misunderstandings in today's Gospel story, have taken them to heart.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6, 12-14

He who fears the Lord respects his parents.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 127

**'O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!'**

Second Reading Colossians 3: 12-21

Family life in the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts; let the message of Christ find a home with you. Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 2: 41-52

Jesus is found by his parents sitting among the doctors.

PARISH PRAYER INTENTIONS 29 DECEMBER 2024

Please pray for those who are sick at home or in hospital especially those of our Parish – Marlene Kenny, Irene McKay, Jeannie Dempster, Keith Smalls, 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 Pope Benedict XVI, Irene Ditchburn, Honor Taylor, Fr Jim McCrudden, Bronwyn Farquharson, Jim Stewart, Mark Brady, Willie Grieve, Gertrude Coyle, Ruby Stewart and Tina Iannetta, whose anniversaries occur around this time. **May God grant them, and the souls of all the faithful departed, eternal rest.**

**HOSPITAL PRIEST CONTACT ON
07821 624 124**

NEWS AND INFORMATION

CHILDRENS LITURGY – there will be no childrens liturgy class on Sunday 29 December and Sunday 5 January during school holidays. Re-commences on Sunday 12 January.

SUNDAY PARISH NEWSLETTER – there will be no weekly newsletter during January. Recommences on Sunday 2 February. Fr Greg will announce any news items at Mass.

REMEMBER – that the Order of the Mass is shown in the first few pages of the hymnbook to assist you.

ON THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. This feast reminds us that we are part of a human family and at the same time we belong to God's family, the Church. In both these families, we have privileges and responsibilities. In both, we work out our salvation together - as women, men, and children living and working in love and peace. Hence let us try our best to make life pleasant for other members in our family and let us begin again today at this time of a NEW YEAR and a NEW BEGINNING.

SPECIAL MASS IN THE CHURCH

Wednesday 1st January

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Holy Mass at 10.00am

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS OVER CHRISTMAS

Sunday Morning 22 December

Loose Plate £131 Gift Aid Envelopes £135

Standing Orders £259

TOTAL £525

Christmas Vigil Mass

Loose Plate £155 Gift Aid Envelopes £140

TOTAL £295

Christmas Morning Mass

Loose Plate £193 Gift Aid Envelopes £75

TOTAL £268

Lectionary Fund £30, £20, £25, £10, £10, £104 = £199

OFFERTORY GRAND TOTAL £1,287

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

2nd Collection next Sunday on 5 January

JUSTICE AND PEACE

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, envelopes are available on the porch desk, and you can also give with Gift Aid, just put 'GA and your name on the front of the envelope'. **Please try to help us with this if you can.** A total of £424 has been raised so far – many thanks for this.

200 CLUB 2024 – CHRISTMAS DECEMBER DRAW

Congratulations to the 'BIG DRAW' winners:

1st Prize £200 Ticket Number 94 – Christene Leiper

2nd Prize £100 Ticket Number 32 – Theresa Prophet

3rd Prize £50 Ticket Number 72 – Frank Carrie

Please remember to renew your ticket/s for next year 2025 if you have not already done so. Plenty numbers available.
Many thanks and a Happy New Year to all - Linda Gow.

WHAT DOES HE SEE?

What does he see in me
that even though he knows my sinfulness,
he says, "You are precious to my heart"?

As we are about to enter into 2025, may I take this opportunity to wish all parishioners and visitors at St Joseph's, a very Happy New Year.

Blessings - Fr Greg