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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

Putting the lessons from today's Gospel into practice is a major challenge. It is tempting to fight back, to be judgmental, to condemn those who do not agree with us. After all, isn't that what we see online or on television, or practice ourselves on social media or among our family and friends? The key to meeting this challenge is to become as selfless as possible. We must overcome our self-centeredness and choose self-sacrifice, as Jesus himself did. He freely gave his healing power knowing he could not be repaid. He lived without possessions, trusting in God's generosity. He forgave his enemies, even from the cross. It helps to see life as a collaboration, with all God's children growing and developing in harmony, not as a competition, where we fear that we will not get or keep what is our fair share.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Which is the most difficult challenge for me:
turning the other cheek when I have been hurt or
wronged, refraining from judging others,
or giving without repayment?
How will I change my thinking and my behaviour?

St Joseph's Weekly Parish Newsletter

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

In the Gospel Reading, Jesus commands us to love our enemies. In other words, every one of us is commanded to love each person who counts as an enemy to us.

Many people suppose that no one except a saint could fulfil this command. Other people think that this command is nothing more than permission to connive with evil, because if you love your enemy instead of clobbering him, you enable him to continue his wrongdoing.

But consider what love is. As Aquinas explains it, love consists in two desires: (1) a desire for the good for the beloved person, and (2) a desire for union with that person. So, a person Paula loves her enemy Jerome only if she desires the good for Jerome and union with Jerome.

But now notice that what the good for Jerome is will depend on Jerome. Desiring Jerome's good requires Paula's foregoing punishment for him if that would be for his good—or insisting on punishment for him if *that* would be for his good. What is best for Jerome is whatever it takes to bring him to a morally good condition in mind and will; and that might include Paula's calling the police to arrest him.

For this same reason, Paula's desire for union with Jerome need not include a desire for companionship with him. If Jerome is entirely unrepentant, then Paula's desire for union with him should not involve a willingness to be in his company. In that worst case, Paula's desire for union with Jerome can appropriately come to no more than the desire that Jerome will repent and reform, so that companionship becomes a possibility for them.

The desire of love is a desire to be at one with the beloved person, but you can be unified with a person only if you each love the good. The proverb says that there is no honour among thieves, but there is no unity among them either.

To love your enemy, then, is not to enable him to continue to do morally wrong acts against you or anybody else either.

If you want what is good for your enemy, you will want for him what you want for yourself: to be a person who has love for the Lord and obedience to him. And if you want union with your enemy, you won't want him to go to hell because he has hurt you. You will be glad if in love and obedience to the Lord, he finds his way to heaven too.

So that is what it is to love your enemy. Each one of us can do this, can't we?

Eleonore Stump

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

In our world today, you don't have to look far to see a lack of respect for human life. War, mass shootings, abortion, and capital punishment make a mockery of what should be a basic principle for us all: every life is precious. Let us keep in mind what Saint Paul teaches the Corinthians in the portion of his letter that we hear today: we shall bear the image of Christ in heaven. Every human life is precious if only because every life holds the promise of resurrection and the heavenly image of Christ. We come together today to thank God for all human life and the promise of eternal life.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Love your enemies, Jesus teaches his disciples. Bless them when they curse you, give more to them when they take from you, turn the other cheek when they strike you. Luke doesn't tell us how the disciples react, but this is a radical teaching. However, we get to see mercy practiced in the first reading, when David chooses to spare his enemy, Saul, when given the chance to slay him. Listening to today's readings, let us consider why we should choose mercy over getting even.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading 1 Samuel 26: 2-23

The Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 102

'The Lord is compassion and love.'

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15: 45-49

We who have been modelled on the earthly man will be modelled on the heavenly man.

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 6: 27-38

Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate.

PARISH PRAYER INTENTIONS 23 FEBRUARY 2025

Please pray for those who are sick at home or in hospital especially those of our Parish – His Holiness Pope Francis, Albert Soave, Peter Angus, Bethany Williamson, Irene McKay, Margaret Forsyth, Saul Sangster, 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 Charlotte Wilson, John Beeching, Fr Matthew O'Brien, Mary and George Routh, Annie McShane, George Taylor, Dorothy Wylie and Susan Wylie, whose anniversaries occur around this time. **May God grant them, and the souls of all the faithful departed, eternal rest.**

TEARS ARE PRAYERS TOO - THEY TRAVEL TO GOD
WHEN WE CAN'T SPEAK

QUIET MOMENT

We do not know the number of souls that is ours to save through our prayers and sacrifices; therefore, let us always pray for sinners. *St. Faustina, Divine Mercy in my Soul*

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP UPDATE

The Justice & Peace Group would like to thank you for your continued help with the work of SCIAF, Embrace the Middle East and Medical Aid for Palestinians, who work tirelessly throughout the Middle East supporting thousands who are displaced and have no homes to return to. Over the past 12 months, the money donated from the Tea/Coffee table has enabled us to make generous donations of over £600 to these charities. In addition, at Christmas the 'Greetings instead of Card' raised £175; the 'Table Sale' £166; the 'Real Gift' donations £36; plus £247 in anonymous donations. These amounts were distributed to SCIAF - £400 Holy Land Appeal - and a further £200 to both Embrace and Medical Aid. We hear from these recipients regularly, thanking us for our financial support and for our prayers.

Our local charity support at Christmas to the Eagles Wings Appeal for warm clothing and toiletries was well received and they were grateful for the help provided to both rough sleepers and homeless. They always need and welcome continuing help, so warm clothing, accessories and shower toiletries are constantly required - if you can provide any? Just bring to the church and we will get it to them.

From all in the J&P Group – thanks for your support – we could not do this without you! *Pat Smith – Treasurer*

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS LAST SUNDAY 16/02/25

Loose Plate £197 Gift Aid Envelopes £107
Standing Orders £259 Lectionary Donations £10

TOTAL £573

SECOND COLLECTION LAST SUNDAY
THE ECCLESIASTICAL STUDENT FUND - £142
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

SCIAF LENTEN MEETING 2025 TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY

Michael Hamilton, a SCIAF Community Engagement Officer, will be coming to St Joseph's Parish, Dundee to give a talk on this Jubilee Year's project, "**Pilgrims of Hope**". The Meeting will start at 11.00am and should last for about an hour. These meetings are very informative so please try to find time to come along. You will be made most welcome. Tea and coffee will be provided. Meeting in the church porch area. Many thanks – *Jack Smith*

MINUTE MEDITATION

Henri Nouwen

We often confuse unconditional love with unconditional approval. God loves us without conditions but does not approve of everything we do. God does not approve of expressions of evil because they all contradict the love God wants to instill in the human heart. God's unconditional love means that God continues to wait for us as a loving parent waits for the return of a lost child. It is important for us to hold on to the truth that God never gives up loving us even when God is saddened by what we do. This truth will help us to return to God's ever-present love.

GOD'S GREATEST POWER IS THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS

HOME BAKING EVENT . . . Our next Home Baking Event will be held next Sunday, 2 March. Please support with your baking and purchasing of delicious products. Many thanks. *Margaret Sinclair*